

Egypt repeats conditions for summit with Peres

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday repeated his conditions for a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and said no decision had yet been taken on holding such talks with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak spoke to reporters after an hour-long meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Muhammad, who arrived in Cairo Tuesday for a five-day visit to discuss bolstering his country's ties with Egypt.

"I have issued my conditions as preparations for the summit and when we reach a conclusion it will be well known," he said.

Asked if preparations were being made for a summit with Mr. Peres, Mr. Mubarak said this had not been decided yet.

The first condition listed was a solution to the dispute over Tabá, a one-kilometre strip in Sinai still held by Israel.

Mr. Mubarak said the other two

conditions were "to solve the problems of Lebanon and a move on the Palestinian issue".

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, withdrew its ambassador from Tel Aviv in 1982 in protest against Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Mubarak said the Tabá issue was still under discussion and that he hoped a "good solution" would be reached.

Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Moshe Sasson, has had talks with Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid in the past week to discuss the issues which have strained relations between the two countries.

Mr. Peres said in Paris last week that a summit with Egypt was a top priority for the Middle East process in addition to dialogue with Jordan and an agreement with Syria over Lebanon.

The Malaysian premier said after his meeting with Mr. Mubarak that he had invited the Egyptian leader to visit Malaysia but no date had been set.

The Malaysian prime minister and his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Hassan Ali began their first round of formal talks after the meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

Earlier the Egyptian premier said there has been no improvement so far in strained relations with Israel.

Asked whether bilateral relations were moving forward following recent diplomatic ex-



Hosni Mubarak

changes. Mr. Ali said: "Till now we can't say that."

"We are discussing details," Mr. Mubarak said. "I can't tell you exactly... things take some time."

Mr. Ali said: "We are really making a survey of bilateral relations and how to improve them."

The prime minister said both countries were committed to continuing efforts to improve relations, which soured following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

"You know our stand," Mr. Ali told reporters. "All depends on the Israeli side."

Iraq resumes Gulf attacks

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq recently resumed attacks on tankers shipping Iranian oil because Iran had significantly raised its crude exports during a lull in Iraqi raids, informed diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The sources told Reuters Iraq's halting of attacks on shipping in mid-October was a political decision aimed at giving the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) a chance to start a new peace initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The GCC held a summit in Kuwait last month in which the Gulf war was a major topic but its efforts were not fruitful because Iran rejected any new peace moves, the sources said.

As a result, Iraq decided to resume attacks on ships dealing with Iran and hit the Cypriot tanker Minotaur on Dec. 3 as she headed for Iran's vital oil terminal on Kharg Island to load crude, they added.

Iraq, at war with Iran since 1980, began attacking ships early this year to cut off Iran's oil exports and thereby cripple its war effort.

Before the attacks, Iranian crude exports were running at around 1.7 million barrels a day. By late summer, after regular Iraqi air raids on oil tankers and other ships visiting Iranian terminals, Iran's exports fell below one million barrels a day.

After Iraqi planes hit the fully-loaded Iranian tanker Sivand in the Gulf on Oct. 15, no Iraqi attacks on ships were reported until the Minotaur on Dec. 3.

The informed diplomatic sources said Iraq decided to resume the attacks after learning that Iranian crude exports had risen to around two million barrels a day during the lull.

Meanwhile, diplomats here said they believed the Minotaur was hit by an Exocet missile fired by one of more than a dozen new sophisticated French-made Mirage F-1eq5 fighter-bombers recently received by Iraq.

The Exocets carried by the newly-delivered planes had a longer range than the 40 kilometre combat range of the Exocets.

U.S. confirms holding exercise with Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department has confirmed that United States and Israeli naval vessels are conducting an anti-submarine exercise in the Mediterranean Sea.

Michael Burch, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said the Aircraft Carrier Eisenhower and other ships in its battle group had joined Israeli vessels Tuesday to begin the exercise.

On Monday evening, Defence Department officials had confirmed the Eisenhower was leaving port in Haifa, but said they knew of no plans for an exercise beyond a routine rendezvous with Israeli ships as the carrier left port.

"There is an exercise underway," Mr. Burch said Tuesday when asked about the Eisenhower's deployment.

"Units of the USS Eisenhower battle group and the Israeli Navy are conducting an anti-submarine exercise to practice anti-submarine warfare techniques. That exercise started today and will last a few days."

The spokesman said the exercise was "long-planned," but added he didn't know precisely when it would end or how many ships were involved.

A U.S.-Navy official who asked not to be named later said the exercise involved only two U.S. ships — the Eisenhower and the guided-missile cruiser Mississippi. Both are nuclear-powered.

The official added the exercise was scheduled to last a week, and that Israeli observers were aboard the Eisenhower. The official said he did not know how many Israeli ships were participating in the exercise, but confirmed it was the first anti-submarine exercise ever conducted by the two countries.

Meanwhile a private study group said Tuesday the Reagan administration has expanded U.S.

military exercises in Central America and the Middle East to a provocative level which undermines other ways of solving problems.

The Centre for Defence Information (CDI), a think tank headed by retired military officers and often critical of Pentagon spending, said in a report that more than 500,000 American troops now take part each year in manoeuvres around the globe.

"U.S. war games in the Middle East and Central America are provocative and undermine initiatives which offer a more sensible means of resolving political and economic problems in both regions," the report said.

The CDI said previous administrations had attempted to use war games as a means of pressuring foreign governments.

But the scale of recent Central American military exercises, including participation of 6,000 U.S. troops in "operation big plane" in Honduras this year, provided a vivid and dangerous example of how manoeuvres could be used to "gunboat diplomacy," the report said.

The centre suggested that facilities being built in Honduras could be used to support a future U.S. invasion of leftist Nicaragua.

"This attitude and the expanded use of U.S. war games reveal the frightening degree to which the present administration seems to have given up on foreign policy and diplomacy and come to rely overwhelmingly on military measures to resolve conflicts with other states," said CDI Deputy Director Eugene Carroll, a retired admiral.

The report said 8,000 Americans took part in 1983 in "Operation Bright Star" in the Middle East, along with forces from Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman.

Arabs prepare for APU meeting

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — Preparations for holding the 15th annual meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), due to be held in Aden on Jan. 26, 1985, have started, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Taking part in the three-day meeting of the APU will be heads of Arab parliaments, members in the APU, Petra added.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra correspondent, the APU's 15th session will discuss organisational, administrative and political issues.

Sharon asked to return home

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli opposition party petitioned the supreme court Wednesday to compel Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, suing Time magazine for libel in New York, to return home immediately or vacate his post.

Mr. Sharon, left for New York on Nov. 5 to testify in the \$50 million libel suit. He is suing over Time's allegation that when defence minister he helped provoke the 1982 Beirut massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians by Lebanese Falangist militiamen.

The Citizens Rights Movement said in its petition Mr. Sharon originally said he would be absent for only two weeks.

'Israeli intransigence will harden Arab stand'

(Continued from page 1)

undergone a dramatic transformation. Sadly the new spirit of moderation in Arab public opinion has not been reciprocated. The shift in Israel has been towards greater intransigence and increasing aggression, while we sought peace, they wrought war.

"Their seems to be a fortress mentality. They do not yet appear to realise that a fortress built on injustice will inevitably fail, and that security is a frame of mind of peoples committed to uphold it, once an honourable, just, peace

Andreotti defends Arafat meeting

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti Wednesday defended a meeting he held with Yasser Arafat, describing the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a "valid political interlocutor." He said: "No impartial political observer can deny that the PLO constitutes an important expression of that people."

Mr. Andreotti said the talks in Tunis last Thursday permitted Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and himself to hear the PLO leader's assessment of peace initiative.

is achieved for all times to come."

"We conceded that in 1967 Israel could have been safe and secure within its own borders then. Israel could have avoided the death and destruction of the ensuing years, the huge number of casualties, including civilian, on all sides, and the suffering of Arabs — both Palestinian and Lebanese. The killing of Muslims, Christians and Jews has not taken place because Israel faced mortal danger, but because it refused to withdraw and refused to evacuate its forces from occupied Arab territories as was demanded by Resolution 242, the preamble of which quoted from the United Nations Charter — 'the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war'."

"The erosion of these principles will in due course destroy the prospect of the better future we seek. The aggregate rights of the Palestinian people, cultural, religious, economic, social and political, embodied in their right to self-determination, must be protected. The national objective, expressed by both Palestinians and Jordanians, must recently at the Palestine National Council."

"Israeli expansionist designs promote nothing but antagonism. Arab Jerusalem must return to

Arab sovereignty, so that in the context of peace, Jerusalem becomes what the Almighty in His wisdom wished it to be, the symbol of peace between all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions."

King sends messages to Gulf states

(Continued from page 1)

The messages explained Jordan's call for the convening of an international conference to resolve the Middle East problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which guarantees the return of the usurped land to its legitimate owners, Mr. Qasem said. He said that he explained to the Arab leaders that such a conference should group all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) along with major world powers.

Mr. Qasem said that he conveyed Jordan's call for an intensification of Arab efforts and a bolstering of Arab solidarity.

Arab Jerusalem must return to Arab sovereignty, so that in the context of peace, Jerusalem becomes what the Almighty in His wisdom wished it to be, the symbol of peace between all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions."

Numeiri appeals for famine aid

PEKING (AP) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has said the international community must give more aid to alleviate the famine threatening millions in his native Africa.

Speaking at an official Chinese welcoming banquet, Mr. Numeiri said China could contribute by teaching African countries its successful techniques in agriculture and rural labour management.

His remarks were reported by the official news agency Xinhua.

"The Sudanese president said that Africa was now facing starvation and diseases as a result of a severe drought," Xinhua said. "He called on international organisations to provide the drought-stricken areas with food and medicine."

Xinhua also quoted Numeiri and his Chinese counterpart Li Xianmin as saying in their banquet toasts that both countries pursue independent foreign policies, oppose superpower meddling and want to increase Chinese-Sudanese cooperation.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

23:00 News Summary
24:00 Close Down

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:35 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programme
18:15 Chips
19:00 Local Programme on road safety
19:30 Programme Review
19:40 Week's Event
19:55 Poetry
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Competition Programme
21:30 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:45 Arabic Play
22:00 News in Arabic
22:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Varieties: Antibes en Oran
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 The Hello Goodbye Man
21:10 Charlie
22:00 News in English
22:15 Movie of the Week: Doctors' Secrets

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
10:00 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
14:00 Pop Session
14:30 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Just A Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Good Old Days
18:30 Music
19:00 Newsdesk
20:00 Date with a Star
20:30 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz.

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Classical Record
06:45 Financial Review 06:55
Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24
Hours: News Summary 07:30 Peebles'
Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00
Newsdesk 08:30 Nature Notebook
08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World
News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary
09:30 Cole Porter And His Music 09:40
Network UK 10:10 World News 10:09
Reflections 10:15 Country Music Spot-
light 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News
11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The
Week in Wales 12:30 Assignment
14:00 Radio Newsreel 14:15 Top Ten
14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World
News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary
15:30 Network UK 15:45 The Bro-
therhood of Brass 16:00 News Sum-
mary: Outlook 16:45 Juke Box Duty
17:00 Radio Newsreel 17:15 The Plea-
sure's Yours 18:10 World News 18:09
Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45
The World Today 19:00 News Summary
19:59 Meridian 19:40 The Week in
Wales 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00
Newsdesk 20:30 Discovery 21:00 Out-
look 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45
The World Today 22:00 Assignment
22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours:
News Summary 22:30 Business Matters
23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Mea-
time 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00
World News 24:15 The Week in Wales
00:30 Financial News

VOICE OF AMERICA

1760 MW, SW 7200, 9365, 11740,
11925 & 15210 KHz.

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal
Presentation of Popular Music with Fea-
ture Reports, Interviews, Answers to
Listeners' Questions, etc.
Sports News at 30 minute past the hour.
17:00 News 17:30 Music USA 18:00
News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English
News Features 18:50 News 19:00
Newsline 19:30 Morning Show 20:00
News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English
and Features 21:00 Newsline America
21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Edi-
torials 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA
World Report

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION		FOREIGN CHANNEL
MAIN CHANNEL		18:00..... French Programme 19:00..... News in French 19:30..... News in Hebrew 20:30..... Comedy: Bloomers 21:00..... Science International 22:00..... Winnipeg 22:15..... News in English 22:30..... Remington Steele
10:00..... Koran		
10:20..... Cartoons		
10:45..... Scooby and Scrappy Doo		
11:15..... Children Programme		
12:15..... Friday Prayer		
13:15..... Documentary		
14:10..... Soccer		
15:00..... Knight Rider		
15:30..... Arabic Programme		
16:30..... Marzouki		
19:30..... Religious Programme		
20:00..... News in Arabic		
20:30..... Local Programme		
21:00..... Arabic Series		
22:00..... Arabic Variety Programme		
		RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
		07:00..... Light Music 07:30..... Newsdesk 08:00..... Morning Show 08:30..... News Summary 09:00..... Morning Show 10:00..... Pop Session 11:00..... News Summary 12:00..... Pop Session 13:00..... News Summary 14:00..... News Bulletin 14:30..... Just A Minute 15:00..... Concert Hour 16:00..... News Summary 16:30..... Old Favourites 17:00..... Special Feature 17:30..... Pop Session 18:00..... News Summary 18:30..... Good Old Days 19:00..... Music 19:30..... Newsdesk 20:00..... Date with a Star 20:30..... Evening Show 21:00..... News Summary 21:30..... Evening Show 21:55..... News Summary 22:00..... Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

MUSEUMS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of oil and water colour paintings, ceramics and wood carvings by Asmah Al Jamal and Mohammad Samara at the Royal Cultural Centre until Dec. 17.

An exhibition of Islamic books at the University of Jordan library.

An exhibition of books on Western art history at the British Council until Dec. 16.

An art exhibition of oils and watercolours by Nello (Swiss) at 6.00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre until Dec. 22.

An exhibition of graphics by Yaser Dweik at the British Council.

FILM

"The Great Muppet Caper" (97 minutes) at 5.00 p.m. at the American Centre.

PLAY

A mime play entitled "Jack and the Beans" at 8.00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (Dec. 13th, 14th, and 15th).

CONCERT

"Airs d'Opera et Melodies" at 8.00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (entry free)

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
British Council 361474
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 47193
Armanan Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 16th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Al Ota'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

Liass Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Liass Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabbal Amman. Eighty cars. Tel. N15261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 34590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luwadih. 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redemptorist) Jabbal. 816534.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751.

Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah. 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

05:00	Prayer
06:28	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:50	Dhuhr
16:14	'Asr
16:31	Maghreb
17:59	'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
This information is supplied by Alfa Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
ARRIVALS	* Volta River
06:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15	Bucharest (RO)
09:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Aden (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran (RJ)
10:00	Beirut (RJ)
10:35	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
11:20	Amman, Ankara (TK)
12:05	Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30	Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
14:40	Kuwait (KU)
14:40	Cairo (RJ)
14:40	Larnaca (LN)
14:45	Baghdad (IA)
14:45	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
17:00	Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:10	Vienna, New York (RJ)
17:10	Paris, Athens (RJ)
17:10	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:40	Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
18:10	Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLMA)
18:15	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
18:20	Amman, Athens (OA)
20:20	Cairo (MS)
20:20	London (BA)
00:45	Cairo (RJ)
01:10	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
05:45	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Cairo (MS)
08:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:15	Beirut (MEA)
08:15	Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
12:00	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
13:00	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30	Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
15:50	Larnaca (CY)
16:40	Kuwait (KU)
17:15	Baghdad (IA)
18:30	Doha, Muscat (RJ)
19:40	Doha, Muscat (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193, 775111
Fire, fire, police	775121, 199
Blood bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	22090-3
Police rescue	192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters	39141
Traffic police	56390-1
Electric Power Co.	36381-2
Municipal water service	771125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(0R) 53333

Dr. Mohammad Al Horani	98552
Mreish pharmacy	770910
Hawamdeh pharmacy	770539
Al Abdali pharmacy	36121
Yarmouk pharmacy	36194
Iyad pharmacy	774822

TAXIS:

Klayyana taxi	41541
Bassam Palace taxi	81187
Syha taxi	43265
Husseini taxi	21776
Klayyana taxi	66488
Ahli taxi	21127
Ahli Koor	77924

HOSPITALS

Huseini Medical Centre	813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	44281-4
Al-Khiz Medical, J. Amman	42441
Jabal Amman Maternity	42362
Malhas, J. Amman	36140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital	66931
University Hospital	845845
Dr. Al-Shifa, J. Hussein	667158
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667229-9
The Islamic, Abdali	665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666164
Isfahan, Al-Mubayyir	77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77511-3
Army, Marka	91611

IRIB

Dr. Ahmad Al Omari	75386
Bassam pharmacy	7343

ZARQA:

Dr. Mestab Hijawi	98217
Al Hadiha pharmacy	(-)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Ministry of Tourism	425112
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone:	
Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	17
Repair services	14

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issa Abu Hayder	37123
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MARKET PRICES

Usable price in fils per kg.

Apple (double red)	250 / 200
Apple (golden)	250 / 200
Apple (starline)	250 / 200
Banana	280 / 240
Beans (Mokhammad)	240 / 210
Beans	320 / 250
Broad beans	600 / 550
Cabbage	130 / 100
Chestnut	650 / 600
Carrot	120 / 80
Cauliflower	160 / 130
Cucumber (large)	200 / 160
Cucumber (small)	400 / 300
Eggplant (large)	100 / 80
Eggplant (small)	150 / 120
Garlic	180 / 150
Grapes	700 / 600
Grapefruit	120 / 90

Mallow	408 / 358
Mandarin	140 / 120
Marrow (large)	170 / 140
Marrow (small)	250 / 200
Onion (dry)	120 / 140
Onion (green)	160 / 120
Okra	250 / 200
Olives (green)	360 / 300
Oranges (Abu-Sutra)	220 / 180
Oranges (Shammout)	160 / 120
Peas (American)	100 / 140
Peas (Swiss)	140 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	120 / 100
Pepper (hot green)	150 / 120
Potatoes	190 / 160
Pumpkin	470 / 350
Radicchio	110 / 80
Spinach	120 / 100
Tomatoes	330 / 250

Home news

Visiting French parliamentary delegation tours medical city

AMMAN (J.T.) — The visiting French parliamentary delegation, headed by Mr. Jean-Pierre Gaudon, arrived in Amman on Wednesday. The delegation, which includes members of the French Parliament, is on a tour of the country. They will be visiting various government departments and institutions. The delegation is expected to stay in Amman for several days before heading to other parts of the country.



Vocational Training Corporation Director General Munther Al Masri (second right) Wednesday signs a contract with a local company for the construction of a vocational centre in the Jordan Valley (Petra photo).

Local firm signs contract for VTC training centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A local construction firm Wednesday signed a contract with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to build a vocational training centre at Mashara' in the northern Jordan Valley region. The centre, to be built on a 3,400 square metre area of land, will offer training in agriculture, metal work, commerce, painting and decorating, building, electricity and plumbing. The South Korean government has donated \$1 million for implementing the project and the grant was presented through the South Korean Hanbo construction company in Amman.

The agreement was signed by VTC Director General Munther Al Masri and the manager of the contracting company in the presence of the Hanbo general manager.

Amman Players to present fun-filled traditional British pantomime today

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the traditional British treats at Christmas is a visit to the pantomime. The Amman Players, a group of local artists, are presenting a fun-filled traditional British pantomime today. The show, titled "Jack and the Beanstalk", is a classic tale of a young boy who outwits a giant. The Amman Players have been performing for many years and their shows are always well-received by the audience.

The show is being presented at the Royal Cultural Centre. Tickets are available for purchase at the centre. The Amman Players are a group of local artists who are dedicated to providing high-quality entertainment to the community. Their shows are always a mix of traditional British pantomime and modern theatrical elements.

The Amman Players have a long history of performing in Amman. They have been a part of the local cultural scene for many years. Their shows are always a mix of traditional British pantomime and modern theatrical elements. The Amman Players are a group of local artists who are dedicated to providing high-quality entertainment to the community.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet revises 1985 fiscal budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Wednesday made a revision of the 1985 national fiscal budget prior to referring it to parliament for debate. At its regular session, which lasted three hours, the cabinet also discussed a number of subjects on its agenda and passed decisions on them.

Five die in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 160 road accidents occurred in Jordan in the past week resulting in the death of five persons and the injury of 90 others, according to a statement by the Public Security Department. The statement said that the majority of these accidents occurred in the Amman area.

EC official to discuss energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director general for energy at the commission of the European Community (EC) in Brussels, Mr. Christopher Audland is due here in the coming week for a visit to Jordan to hold talks with Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour and Minister of Energy Hisham Al Khatib. During the visit an agreement will be signed by the three officials concerning assistance from the EC for setting up an energy planning unit in Jordan.

Obeid, envoys review transport issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid Wednesday discussed with Egyptian ambassador in Amman Ehab Wehbi the possibility of signing a maritime agreement and setting up a shipping line between the two countries. They also discussed ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation in railways and aviation. Also Wednesday Mr. Obeid reviewed with Bahraini Ambassador in Amman Abdul Aziz Al Hassan bilateral relations in transport fields.

UNRWA inaugurates school

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Mrs. In'am Al Mufti, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Jordan Field Office Wednesday officially inaugurated a new school for refugee children in North Russeif. The school, costing \$800,000, has 31 classrooms, eight administrative rooms, two laboratories, a library and a multipurpose room and offers general education to 2,837 students.

Mahmoud to open charity bazaar Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud Friday will open a charitable bazaar, organised by the Arab Women's Federation in Bethlehem, at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) hall. On display in the two-day bazaar will be handicrafts, textile products and bamboo and straw works.

Seminar participants tour Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in a four-day round table seminar on "Agrarian Structural Changes and Rural Poverty in the Near East Region", Wednesday toured the Jordan Valley, Jerash and Ajloun areas and examined farmers' experiments in the field of agricultural development using modern methods. They also visited a number of cooperative societies' projects in these areas. Twenty-five experts from 13 different countries attended the seminar.

Anani issues hallmarking regulation for gold, jewelry

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani has decided that all jewellers and goldsmiths in Jordan should apply the standard specifications for gold and jewels and should place hallmarks set by the ministry on all gold items which are for sale.

The measure is to take effect as from the start of 1985, according to a statement issued by the minister. The statement said that each jewelry piece should bear a distinguishing trade mark registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and that the workshop which produces the piece should bear responsibility for the hallmark.

The statement also said that no gold merchant would be allowed to hold a contract with the workshops unless they produced a licence issued to them by the ministry.

In addition, importers of gold and jewelry cannot clear their goods from customs without approval from the ministry, the statement said.

Alia hopes to open new routes, improve sales, Balqaz says

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Mr. Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz, said Wednesday that the national airline aims to open new markets.

Mr. Balqaz said that Alia's production and sales in 1984 were not as good as expected and therefore more efforts should be exerted and new techniques introduced in order to overcome obstacles and improve performance.

Mr. Balqaz was addressing Alia's annual sales conference held at the Regency Palace Hotel. In his speech Mr. Balqaz said that Alia should rely on planning and on boosting its existing routes and should also try to open new routes in 1985 after conducting feasibility studies.

Alia has been established to serve as a bridge of understanding with the world as intended by His Majesty King Hussein. Therefore, it has to develop on scientific and

sound planning so that it can achieve its objectives, Mr. Balqaz said.

The two-day conference was opened by Mr. Ali Ghandour, Alia's chairman of the board of directors, who paid tribute to the sales officers who had enabled Alia to assume a competitive status with world airlines.

Alia has been able to reach a high standard of efficiency and to assume great standing among world airlines after 21 years in service thanks to the efforts of its staff and owing to sound and well-studied plans, Mr. Ghandour said.

The conference will review Alia's budget and a work plan for the coming year.

Nutrition experts continue talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on "Technical Consultation on Food and Nutrition Policies and Programmes in the Near East" Wednesday discussed a programme designed to improve nutrition in the region.

The seminar, which opened Monday at the University of Jordan, also reviewed working papers on agricultural courses in universities as well as development strategies aimed at ensuring food security.

Most of the six working papers, prepared by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), deal with the nutrition situation in

the region, food quality control and consumer protection, agricultural training and other related topics.

The seminar, organised by FAO in cooperation with the University of Jordan Faculty of Agriculture, aims at discussing priorities and guidelines that should be referred to when adopting nutrition programmes.

American policy created Arab rifts, political lecturer says

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Raymond Habibi, professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma, Wednesday said that the Arab World was never of major interest in the U.S. foreign policy until recently, when the U.S. began having more differences with the Soviet Union and realised that it needed Arab allies to strengthen the U.S. position in the region.

Dr. Habibi, who was delivering a lecture on "Arab-American relations" at the University of Jordan, Wednesday also said that U.S. foreign policy has divided the Arab World into the camps: moderate countries and the extremist countries. "Therefore, the U.S. feels that the problems of American foreign policy will settle down if the U.S. is able to dominate the extremists," he said.

Dr. Habibi stressed the need for an Arab alliance in order to support their position and to have a

united and strong political influence on American foreign policy vis-a-vis the Arab World. Dr. Habibi insisted that Arabs should prove to the U.S. that "there is an absolute interest in changing U.S. policy in regards Arab relations. He also pointed out that "legal rights always support the political decision, but on the other hand they do not change it. Therefore, Arabs should take a political decision: If Arabs endorse rifts, rifts will continue and lead nowhere,"

Dr. Habibi also said that U.S. foreign policy has divided the Arab World into the camps: moderate countries and the extremist countries. "Therefore, the U.S. feels that the problems of American foreign policy will settle down if the U.S. is able to dominate the extremists," he said.

Dr. Habibi stressed the need for an Arab alliance in order to support their position and to have a

emeral and external policies and is a guarantee for their survival, therefore, he continued Arabs should pressure the U.S. to stop their assistance to Israel, as Arabs are currently a major force in the international world of politics.

Dr. Habibi, who was delivering a lecture to students of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Jordan during which he gave a

Dr. Raymond Habibi

Jewish lobby and its influence on American political decisions and policies concerning the Arab World. He also talked about the gradual interest of the U.S. in the Arab World, an interest that he said developed due to Arab countries being a major source of oil. Dr. Habibi, an American citizen of Arab origin, has been working as a professor of politics for the past twenty-three years. He is currently visiting Jordan as part of a Middle East tour to examine the situation in the region.

Al Ali expresses strong political feelings through satirical, mirthless cartoons

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition that is attracting a lot of attention, especially among students, is collection of the satirical drawings and caricatures by the celebrated Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al Ali which is currently on show at the Faculty of Engineering, the University of Jordan.

The 143 cartoons that line the walls of the small exhibition space next to the cafeteria have all been reprinted from the various Arabic newspapers in which Al Ali publishes his work. Every drawing features Al Ali's trademark — the small, diminutive character with spiky hair. Hantallah, who almost certainly represents the artist himself.

Although Hantallah's face is never seen — Al Ali always portrays him from the back, his hands held dejectedly behind him — it is through this depressed little figure

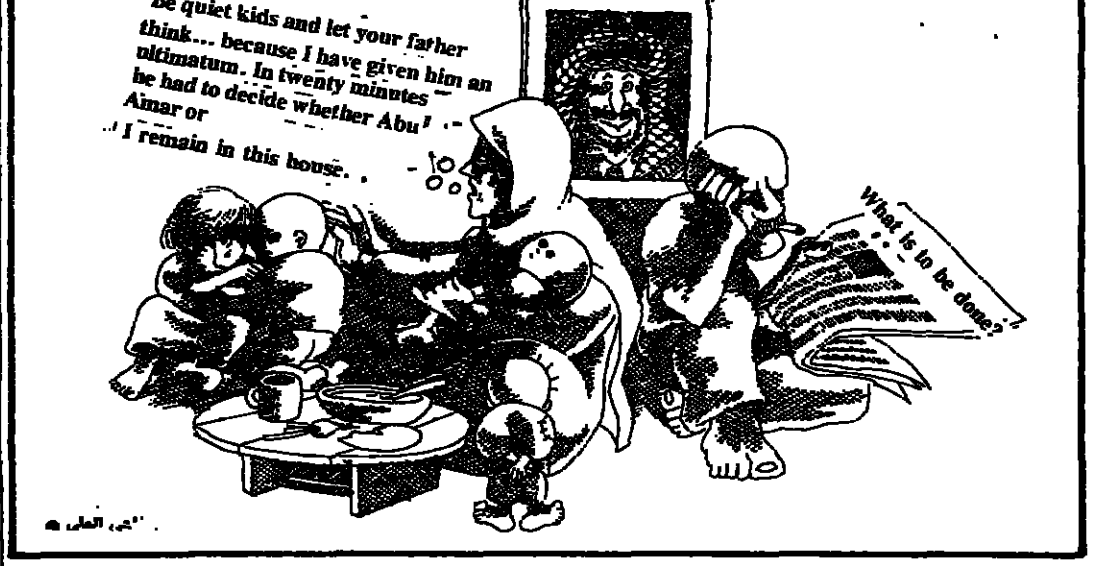
that the artist manages to express more powerfully than he ever could with words alone, some of his feelings, which are common to many, about the political atrocities committed in the Arab World each and every day. His main themes are the problems faced by the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, those faced by Lebanon and of Arab relationship with each other and in particular with the United States.

Sometimes Hantallah is simply an observer, watching the Palestinian child waking up on Christmas morning to find his present, a pair of boots which are no use to him, for as he gets out of bed, we see he has lost legs. At other times, Hantallah becomes more intimately involved, so much so that you hardly see him crouching inside the soldier's great coat with which he protects the slender figure

of hope growing in a cold and bleak environment. Like all good cartoonists Al Ali uses humour, albeit a mirthless, black variety to carry his message more forcefully, to make his images so much more moving and memorable. And memorable are what they are for Al Ali's drawings stay to haunt you for a long, long time.

Born in As Shajarah, Galilee, in 1936, Al Ali began his career with the press in 1967 when he worked both as an artist and an editor for a Kuwaiti newspaper. In the early 1970's he transferred to Lebanon where he has worked ever since with the As Safir newspaper at the same time supplying the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas and several Gulf papers with his cartoons. A book of his work was published in 1976.

The exhibition, which opened on Tuesday, closes today Thursday, December 13.



This cartoon was published in the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al Qabas immediately after Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's controversial visit to Cairo in December 1983. In the cartoon Naji Al Ali satirically depicts the sharp division which the visit caused among the Palestinian people.

Alia encourages more Jordanian girls to become flight attendants

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thanks to the high salary rate in Jordan, the highest in the Arab World, offering vast job opportunities, and its in-house training programme, Alia has reached an enviable record of an 80 per cent Jordanian workforce and management team. There has been, however, one factor leaving Alia's managers unsatisfied; the low number of female flight attendants, forcing the company to hire foreigners from Europe, America and the Far East.

Recently, however, a major breakthrough was made when President Mahmoud Balqaz inaugurated 14 female flight attendants, the largest number in any year. "The number is not exceptional," says vice-president Passenger and Airport Services, Akel Biltaji, "but we are encouraging it because we are pulling our forces right now to try to encourage girls to join our crews."

There are still some problems, difficulties, as proved by the applicants who dropped her last during this last course leaving only 14 graduates, but, as Mr. Biltaji clarifies, "the job of air stewardess has gained respect in our area and is now appreciated by Jordanian females. Jordanian

women today fill many valuable posts in our society, even political or managerial responsibilities. In Alia itself, we have several women as area managers or directors. We believe it is now time for women to play their role in one area which was always thought to be dominated by foreign girls."

The company has now 60 vacancies that Mr. Biltaji hopes to fill before the end of the year. A campaign has been conducted in universities, colleges and high schools to encourage girls to take up this profession.

Although there are still inhibitions and social concerns hindering some prospective applicants, they are now disappearing and increasingly do not seem to represent a major problem. "Of course, there are a lot of taboos concerning this type of work, and in a country where women are not usually allowed to go out after 6 p.m., many parents are concerned about letting their daughter sleep out, and travel to and from home at late hours," says Suad Nimri, one of the graduates from this last batch. She is very enthusiastic about her new job, and is advising it among her friends and relatives. Two of her sisters are hostesses as well, and she has con-

vinced a relative who lives in the United States to return to Jordan to take up this career. "My parents were concerned too," she continues, "but when they saw how the job is making me happy they got used to the idea. I believe it is much more respectable than even working in an office. And if the parents know their daughters well, they also know that she can be trusted and then they can rest in peace no matter where she is or what she is doing."

Helen Jalouck, another of the new graduates, shares these opinions. "We need to, first of all, win our parents' trust. Then they will allow us to choose our own career and we can build up their confidence by our example," she says.

Housing, transportation

Once this problem is out of the way, two more problems remain which seem even more real and are a matter of concern to the Alia management: housing and transportation. Alia President Mahmoud Balqaz said that he is willing to give housing allowances to girls who need them. "Girls can house together, it is very common nowadays in Jordan," says Mr. Biltaji, "and this allowances will certainly encourage girls from all over Jordan to take up this profession."

Transportation can be a problem for girls who live far from the airport. Helena, for example, lives in Zarqa and the only way she can get home in the daytime is to go to the Marqa airport first, then get transport from there. At night, however, the company takes her home.

"Some girls are apprehensive about going home late at night," Mr. Biltaji says, "even if our drivers are extremely trustworthy and conscientious and always wait at the girl's doorstep until she is safely in the house. There are still inhibitions in this area," he adds.

There are, naturally, other problems (one girl locked herself in the restroom crying when a passenger made advances to her), but they are outweighed by the many advantages. Suad talks excitedly about all the benefits she is getting

in her new job. "First of all," she says, "it is a long-term job. One can keep flying for up to 13 years if one wants to, or a girl can work in a ground office even after two years of in-flight service. Then there is a chance to travel, and the pay is good."

Helen heartily agrees. "It's also a very good chance to serve our country," she says. "We are representing Jordan to the world, and other countries often have misconceptions about Arabs that we need to refute."

Besides these benefits, there are many others which are obvious. Since the company, as Mr. Balqaz pointed out in his speech at the graduation of these girls, wants them "to be ambassadors of good will and true image makers of Alia", their looks, health and even happiness are cared for since the day they begin the training course. Periodic employee attitude surveys, elaborate in-house training, recreational facilities, several employee publications and subsidised company housing projects have been Alia's policies for years and the feeling of "Husseinate Alia" ("the family of Alia", which is the company's motto) is palpable in every site of the building and on air.

Beauty benefits

Beauty benefits

A physician is always present to check any of the staff's complaints and a beautician gives complete make-up, hair-styling and skin-care advice to all air hostesses. She does their manicures and gives them haircuts if needed. Both the beautician and the supervisors are always watching the girls' weights in order to correct any problem from the onset. What more could a beauty-conscious girl desire?

All staff members seem happy with their jobs, although the work of a flight attendant may seem strenuous to the passenger who is just relaxing while all his needs are taken care of. "In reality, it is no harder than most other jobs," Suad says. "And, if you like your job, the burdens get light". Even the dreaded problem of jetlag is not so hard for Alia in-flight personnel, according to Mrs. Renee Nahas Malhas, director standards

for Alia. "The longest of our flights only lasts 7 or 8 hours, so the adjustment is easier", she says. Suad adds that jet lag is not a problem if the girl is taking care of herself properly. "There are many ways of taking care of oneself", she says. Mrs. Malhas has been working for Alia for several years, first as a flight attendant, then taking up managerial responsibilities. She is married to an Alia captain. "another benefit of this job", she adds.

Marriage does not represent an obstacle to this career, unless a girl is planning on having a large family or unless her husband objects. "We have married women with us", Mrs. Malhas says, "all married to Jordanians". Pregnancy, however, calls for a suspension of all flights until the baby is a few months old.

Qualifications

The only qualification required in order to apply for flight attendant positions is a high school diploma. Knowledge of English is indispensable, but a pre-training course is offered to applicants if their English is not good enough. "The first requisite for an applicant, before anything else", Mrs. Malhas says, "is warmth and personality. This is more important than beauty. A woman with personality will appear beautiful. The applicant also needs to be calm. Nervousness is a bad sign, an unstable personality could blow up if a passenger provokes her, while for Alia, the passenger is always right".

"Before beauty", Mrs. Malhas continues, "we put cleanliness. If an applicant is not concerned enough to come to the interview clean, groomed and nice-smelling, there is little we can do to help her appearance in the future. While looks are important, one needs not be a beauty queen. We are just concerned that her appearance is pleasant, including nails and teeth, and that she had no major skin problem."

Applicants can be rejected for health reasons, such as heart trouble or extremely low blood pressure. The age limit is usually 20 as a minimum age and 32 as a maximum.

thirteen Jordanian girls graduate from their training course recently become one of the largest batches of native flight attendants for Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. (J.T. file photo)

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The arrogance of guns

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly has once again voted overwhelmingly for an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Israel has once again been quick off the mark to reject it. No doubt, now that Israel has spoken, the United States government will take its cue and will also Speak As The Master Has Spoken. We find it ironic that while the Arabs have made a significant shift, indeed, a historic shift, and have been openly calling for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices, the Israelis and Americans have consistently rejected this conciliatory Arab position. The Israelis insist that bilateral negotiations are the only way to peace. The United States government obediently nods its head, shuffles around mumbly incoherently about "peace processes", and the rest of the world holds its breath to see if the Middle East will explode yet again into warfare and violence.

The United States and Israel know that they have the upper hand for the moment in the Middle East, and can perpetuate the status quo for quite a while. But how long can military power dictate political realities? Have the Americans already forgotten the Vietnam years, when their arrogant and foolish reliance on sheer military power ultimately disintegrated into images of fleeing American diplomats airlifted by helicopters off their embassy roof? Have the Israelis forgotten the lessons of Sinai, when they swore never to relinquish their settlements and finally physically destroyed them?

Israel and its American echo are being short sighted in routinely refusing Arab offers to negotiate peace. The Americans naively talk about a "peace process" in the Middle East. Which peace process are they talking about? We don't see it.

The Arabs, with the support of most of the rest of the world, are asking to start a genuine, meaningful peace process, through an international conference to negotiate a final peace. Those who respond only with the arrogance of the gun are destined to live forever with their guns blazing.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel — roots of terrorism

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz has stated that a military action which the United States might launch against sources of terrorism would win support from Western countries and would abort many terrorist actions in the future. This explains U.S. intention of launching an imminent aggression or a military invasion of some countries.

Terrorism should not be responded to with aggression and invasion; otherwise, terrorism will spread and chaos will prevail. When Shultz says that a military action will be backed by the West, it means that the East is the ground of terrorism and therefore it will be facing an aggression from the United States. This is irresponsible talk and can only create more tension and hatred.

The United States, which had been supporting Israel's actions, has never condemned Zionist acts of terror and aggression. It has never rebuked Israel for committing the Sabra and Shatila camps massacres, nor has it ever stopped supplying Israel with weapons to carry destruction and death to refugee camps and Arab towns in Palestine and South Lebanon.

If Washington wants to stop terrorism, it should first find the cause of terrorism: Israel, which has been launching terrorist attacks in all directions. Washington should blame itself for encouraging Israel to commit terrorist acts and crimes against the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Sad situation in Lebanon

IN THE light of almost daily fighting in the mountains around Beirut, and the escalation of artillery duels around the Lebanese capital, we can say that the warring factions are intent on destroying their own country. It is true that external forces are inciting some factions to pursue the fighting, but this does not absolve the warring groups themselves from the crime of killing one another and killing others too in the race for destroying Lebanon.

As the Lebanese government tries to deploy its forces in every part of Lebanon, and as the government continues to face Israeli intransigence at the Naqura talks, the warring factions are determined to make it difficult for Prime Minister Rashid Karami and his colleagues to re-establish stability and peace in the country.

So far, the Lebanese army has failed twice in attempts to deploy troops in the southern parts of the capital because it is confronted with artillery clashes and shelling that have been hitting residential areas, killing and wounding many people. The Lebanese factions are, through their fighting, proving to the world and to Israel that the army is incapable of preserving peace and security, and therefore it will never be able to safeguard peace near the border with Israel. This situation enhances Israel's demands at the Naqura talks that U.N. forces and Israeli-backed militia should be deployed instead to ensure that security can be maintained.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rationalising energy consumption

THE GOVERNMENT'S projects included in the coming five-year plan reflect its intention to go ahead with the process of development and construction. But this process should have the backing of all sectors of the public and must be supported in word and deed so that the projects can succeed. One of the obstacles in the way of progress is the increase in energy consumption which has recently reached 150 per cent. This situation requires a national programme for rationalising the consumption of all types of energy so that the country can save the money for something more useful.

The government would not doubt continue the drive to find oil or to develop shale oil as a source of energy, but in the meantime a national plan for rationalising energy consumption is much needed. The minister of energy and mineral wealth announced some measures to be adopted by the government immediately towards reducing energy consumption, and these measures should indeed be backed by the citizens to save the money for the treasury, which in turn will spend it on more useful services and on improving the income of the employees in general.

The government's keenness on developing agriculture requires financial support, and money that can be saved from energy can for instance be spent on developing the country's food production. On the whole, the government's plans will not succeed unless they acquire genuine interaction and backing from all citizens.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

U.S. military withdrawal from Lebanon productive

IT HAS been little more than a year now that the U.S. withdrew its Marines from Lebanon. That withdrawal was not just a tactical policy shift. It marked a major turning point in U.S. Middle Eastern policy. And it may have marked a major turning point in Middle Eastern history.

To understand why and how it was a turning point, we have to look at history. The British, who have long been involved in the Middle East, operated with one fundamental policy assumption: the Middle East is so fragmented that only one great and powerful empire can rule it. In 1918, the British decided that it was their turn to succeed the Ottoman Turks in that role. But by the mid-1960s, the British realised they could no longer carry the role. They secretly

informed the Americans that they were considering pulling out. In 1968 they made their intention public. In 1971 they pulled their last forces out of the Gulf. Naturally, they handed on their imperial role to the Americans.

The Americans were reluctant to become involved but one argument seemed all-conquering: if the U.S. does not enter the Middle Eastern power vacuum, the Soviet empire will.

By 1971, Washington's worst fears seemed to be realised. British and French power had virtually vanished from the Middle East. And U.S. power was being undermined through the rise of OPEC. While American politicians eagerly applauded every military move by the Israelis, American generals

and diplomats were worried that every Israeli victory on some battlefield only cleared the way for the Soviet Union to come into the Middle East like a bear stealing quietly through the night-darkened forest.

So all during the 1970's, Washington schemed and manoeuvred to get U.S. military power in the Middle East to fill the power vacuum created by the final departure of the British: U.S. naval manoeuvres in the Arabian sea, military agreements with the Emirates and Saudi Arabia, arming of Jordan, a new alliance with Egypt, Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) and so on.

Then came the Iranian Revolution. Washington strategists were convinced that Iran could go Communist. Wasn't the Ira-

nian Communist Party, the Tudeh, working hand-in-glove with Khomeini? U.S. moves to get more military power into the Middle East intensified. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon terrified the generals and the diplomats.

At that time it seemed as if Iran might emerge as the victor over Iraq. There was talk of an alliance of Iran-Syria-Libya which would squeeze the "moderate" Arab states from one side while Israel squeezed them from the other. Suddenly the U.S. began to look with a less hostile eye at Iraq. And it began to intensify pressure against Col. Qadhafi. The Israelis were furious. They wanted just such a line up — a Libyan-Syrian-Iranian alliance backed by Russia would have resulted in a real (and not threadbare)

U.S. — Israeli strategic alliance. And, in between we would have seen a neutralised Egypt, a beaten-down Iraq, a Lebanon ruled by an Israeli puppet regime, and a paralysed Jordan.

Despite all the hypocrisy, double-dealing, timidity in Washington, in the end the generals and diplomats prevailed and the U.S. continued to put some of its cards on the "moderates". The U.S.-Iraq relationship began to grow; Egypt began slowly but gradually to free itself from the Camp David paralysis; and finally the U.S. began to allow Syria to play a key role in Lebanon.

When Mr. Reagan decided to withdraw the troops from Beirut, he in effect abandoned the old British notion that in-

evitably some great power would rule the Middle East. The Soviets have lost, not gained influence. Khomeini has not swept over the Middle East like some Islamic Napoleon. Nor have the Israelis been able to realise their ambition of a "Greater Israel."

The Libya-Syria-Iran line is a mirage. Israel is beginning to show signs of rot in its foundations. And the "moderate" Arab states, despite all their problems, are beginning to look better. We shall see whether in the coming years new forces from Iraq to Morocco can succeed in making something of the *Umm al Arab* (Arabic Nation) which all the talking, posturing, and tragic fighting of earlier years never was able to do.

Will Gorbachev's London visit open new chapter?

Mikhail Gorbachev, widely held to be the Soviet leader second in command, will be in London. Frank Giles, former editor of The Sunday Times, just back from the Soviet Union, reports.

I FOUND abundant friendliness and warmth on all sides. But that does not alter the fact that a massive wall of mistrust still stands between the Soviet Union and the West. Could the meeting in Geneva in January between the American secretary of state, George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign minister, Gromyko, be the beginning of a new and happier chapter, paving the way towards a more fruitful approach to arms control and a halt in the gruesome continuation of the arms race? Anything is possible, but judging from what I heard in Moscow and Leningrad last week, the auguries are not good. The megaphone diplomacy of recent years, practised by both sides, has left an ominous legacy.

On arms control, the Russians have convinced themselves not only that the Reagan administration bears all the responsibility for the arms race, above all for its introduction of the "star wars" idea which would fill outer space with nuclear horrors; they also argue, seemingly with total conviction, that the installation of cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe was not the response to their deployment of SS20 missiles but was a deliberate attempt to disturb the

nuclear balance which, they claim, had previously existed. By Western calculations, this is utter nonsense.

Prolonged bouts of nuclear arithmetic are not merely exhausting, they are also, as I soon found out, completely fruitless. There may be some formula for reconciling the contradictory estimates of each side about the other's nuclear strength. But it was certainly not apparent in Moscow last week. Without it, both sides are talking, as they have talked in the past, from entirely different premises. What emerges, with extreme clarity, is that Moscow is never, whatever the cost, going to accept nuclear inferiority.

Two factors could afford some hope. First, although the Russians would never admit it, they have suffered, and the leadership must know it has suffered, a major defeat over the cruise and Pershing deployment. Despite their strenuous efforts, the programme has gone forward. The removal of the missiles used to be a condition for the resumption of talks about intermediate nuclear weapons. Evidently it is so no longer. Soviet realism, fortunately a constant element in Moscow's policymaking, is still there.

Secondly, although the Rus-



M. Gorbachev

not achieve this all on their own terms are so apparently adamant that they bear no blame for the arms race, they must know — I certainly took every occasion to point it out to the people I talked to — that no parties to a dispute are ever 100 per cent right or 100 per cent wrong. If they genuinely want a slowing down in the arms race, a reduction in the level of nuclear armaments and a moratorium on star wars, they will have to make concessions, agree to cuts in levels and be ready to accept measures of physical verification. The West will also have to make concessions. There is no sincerity, to my mind, about the Soviet wish to see the threat of nuclear destruction diminished, preferably lifted altogether. What they have yet to learn, or be told by their leaders, is that they can-

not achieve this all on their own terms. This of course is where the wall of mistrust is so formidable an obstacle. I got into a fearsome argument in Leningrad with a group of editors and academics. I had been talking about the duties of the press and the media in general in keeping public opinion informed. A professor of sociology responded that the British press, by giving a consistently unfavourable version of life in the Soviet Union, easily induced ignorant members of the British public to think likewise.

"When I was in a pub in Manchester not long ago," he said, "some perfectly respectable citizens, learning that I was from Russia, informed me that there was no democracy in my country. I asked them what they knew of the system of Soviet democracy. They knew absolutely nothing. What sort of public opinion, informed by what sort of press, is that?"

Human rights proved another, and familiar, battleground. The same group argued that the constant references in the Western press to the Sakharov case were simply anti-Soviet propaganda. "Sakharov and other dissidents don't count for anything here." (Another, exceptionally well-informed, Russian source in Moscow, by no means an admirer of the regime, asserted that the dissident movement, such as it was, is now finished.) "Why

doesn't your press write something about a really important Soviet achievement, such as the completion of the new trans-Siberian railway?"

Reminders that in the West individual rights and freedoms are rated very highly were met with the objection that an unemployed man in Britain could not derive much, if any, satisfaction from being able to shout with impunity. "Down with the Queen" in front of Buckingham Palace; what he wanted and should have a right to was a job.

So it went on, two worlds apart, two systems and sets of values apparently destined forever to be at odds. Sometimes the sheer chaos of Soviet arguments took the breath away.

One senior official regretted the state of stagnation that had characterised East-West relations in recent years.

I reminded him that this was because of Afghanistan. "We never proposed any reduction of East-West contacts or boycott of visits," was the reply, followed by the claim that the Soviet Union had only gone into Afghanistan by invitation. (That, and the need to ensure the security of the Afghanistan-USSR frontier, is a widely-heard justification for the enterprise. If there are doubts or regrets, they are certainly not voiced to foreigners.) Yet beneath all this virulence

and distortion, there is discernible a real wish for better understanding with, and by, the West, an endearing reaching out of hands, a puzzled bewilderment that human beings who share a common interest in the future well-being of their country, their children and grandchildren, have been unable to agree on lowering the thresholds of danger. A profound and genuine fear fills the Russian mind.

Perhaps the most encouraging remark came from a senior man in one of the many institutes in Moscow concerned with international affairs. There is no point, he said, in one side trying to "convert" the other to its system and philosophy. (This is surely right. The main lines of Soviet policy, whoever rules in the Kremlin, are not going to change.) What would be far more realistic, said my interlocutor, would be to try to "manage our differences", to agree on the need for "certain ground rules" which should govern normal relationships between states. Here, in contrast to all the ideological prattle and special pleading, was the voice of reason and common sense. These are qualities that both sides in the great East-West divide, as they approach the next and crucial phase of negotiation, should be seeking to cultivate. Without them, the prospect is likely to be bleak — The Sunday Times.



French minister prepares for calamities

By Gavin Bell
 Reuter

PARIS — When French government minister Haroun Tazieff arrives at his office on the left bank of the Seine in Paris, all he thinks about is death and destruction.

While colleagues in the adjacent Foreign Trade Ministry wrestle with more mundane problems, he calculates the odds of an earthquake bringing the building crashing down around them.

Mr. Tazieff, a geologist and renowned authority on volcanoes, was invested last July with a unique mission as secretary of state for the prevention of major natural and technological disasters.

His brief is to advise Prime Minister Laurent Fabius on the prospects of disasters ranging from volcanic eruptions to explosions at nuclear power plants, and on what should be done to guard against them.

According to the 70-year-old scientist, who has spent a lifetime touring the planet's most desolate and hostile regions, France is dangerously ill-prepared for a natural or technological disaster — and it is not alone.

"At the moment I would say that not a single country in the world is organised the way it could be, the way it should be, to deal

with a major catastrophe," he told Reuters.

Recent devastating explosions at an oil refinery in Mexico and a leak of toxic gas from a chemical plant in India provided grim reminders of the risks facing unprepared populations.

"Such things could happen in France tonight... we have been lucky so far," Mr. Tazieff said.

In a recent report, he cited a huge exercise in the Vosges region of eastern France last December as an example of the failure of rescue services to coordinate effectively in an emergency.

"At this level of complexity, the organisation of rescue services is identical to a military operation. Fortunately it was only an exercise, because in reality the war would have been lost," Mr. Tazieff said.

The main reason was rivalry between separate services which occasionally flared into open conflict, he said.

At the top of his danger list are earthquakes, which he terms the rarest but most terrifying of natural disasters in France, and flooding which poses the most common threat.

"The occurrence of major, destructive earthquakes in France should be considered very seriously. The last one was in 1909,

and at the current average rate of four every 100 years, there is a strong possibility of one or two before the end of this century," he said.

He said a tremor at Liege, Belgium in November 1983, which killed two people and injured 200, should be taken as an alarm signal in France where several regions were more susceptible to such phenomena.

"For an earth tremor the rule, with very rare exceptions, is no warning at all. Therefore we must act as quickly as possible to minimise the casualties," he said.

Mr. Tazieff said his priority was to ensure new buildings were constructed to withstand as far as possible the effects of a tremor, and that existing hospitals, schools and other public buildings were reinforced.

An automatic early-warning system was urgently required to limit damage of flooding, which threatened almost two million people in France, he said. Abnormally heavy rainfall in spring last year inundated 33 regions, causing 29 deaths and damage estimated at more than two billion francs (\$200 million).

Mr. Tazieff's other major concerns include forest fires which ravaged some 50,000 hectares of France last year, and avalanches

for which the country holds the world record — 28 during the winter of 1982-83, causing 36 deaths.

A less likely but spectacular possibility of disaster lies dormant in the hills of the Auvergne. France's volcano belt. The volcanoes have been inactive for 2,000 years, but Mr. Tazieff reckons they could blow up again at any time. He says one erupted in Iceland in 1973 after being dormant for 5,000 years.

"Two thousand years is a very short time in the history of volcanology. Geologically it is quasi-certain that there will be eruptions in the Auvergne. It might not happen for another 2,000 years, but equally it could happen next year," he said.

Mr. Tazieff reckons that proper precautions could reduce the human and material losses of a disaster by up to 10,000 times.

The problem is that investments of this nature are not politically attractive. If a government does provide funds, it is unlikely to be congratulated if disaster strikes although casualties are reduced — and if nothing happens it faces criticism for wasteful expenditure," he said.

Another inhibiting factor in many countries is that over the years disasters have claimed relatively few victims.

Hitler lost ordinary Germans' support with closing defeat

By Hans-Ulrich Joerges
 Reuter

MUNICH — Newly-published documents of the intelligence branch of Hitler's SS show the support of ordinary Germans for the Nazi leadership steadily declining as defeat in World War II loomed closer.

The stormtroopers of the SS are best known as the black-uniformed agents of Hitler's extermination policies. They also filed a lesser-known role as monitors of public opinion for the Nazi leadership.

Around 30,000 members of the intelligence service of the SS were employed to eavesdrop on conversations of ordinary Germans between 1938 and 1945.

Their confidential reports were distributed to Nazi government ministers and party leaders, often to Hitler himself. They have now been published in full by the Pawlak Company and the West German Federal Archives in 17 volumes.

A month after war broke out, a report dated Oct. 11, 1939 said people had been holding festive gatherings in some Berlin streets and squares after rumours of ceasefire with Britain.

But after German victories in France and Scandinavia the following year the Nazi government reached the high point of its popularity, with the population firmly behind the war.

"Under the spell of military successes, the entire German race has created a bond between the front and the population never achieved before," the SS Intelligence Service reported on June 24, 1940.

A year later, the service reported that people had taken the German declaration of war on the Soviet Union with "a certain bewilderment". The two countries had signed a non-aggression treaty in 1939.

The defeat of the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad at the beginning of 1943 marked a turning point in the war.

battle in Stalingrad caused a deep feeling of shock in the whole people... unstable comrades saw the beginning of the end," a report of Feb. 4, 1943, said.

On Nov. 22, 1943, the intelligence service was reporting a "deep longing for peace" among the people, who were discussing "peace at any price, or a compromise peace".

At this stage only a small proportion of the people believed in the final victory of the German cause, the intelligence service reported.

The same month, reports appeared for the first time suggesting less than total faith in the leadership and mentioning complaints about corruption.

When the Western allies invaded Normandy in the summer of 1944, the intelligence service reported "fingering voices of panic".

The director of the Federal Archives, Heinz Boberach, said the Putsch attempt of July 20, 1944, would have been successful if Hitler had been killed as the reports show that he was the only member of the leadership in whom the public retained trust.

Even this faith was not to last for long. "Wonder weapons" that would turn the tide in favour of the Nazis failed to appear and in 1945 the intelligence service reported for the first time: "The doubt in the leadership does not exclude the Fuehrer himself."

In 1944, the Nazi leadership had stopped the reports, which until then had been twice weekly, complaining that they contained nothing but defeatist comments. Only occasional reports "tended to single issues" appeared until the defeat of Germany in 1945.

An anti-Jewish propaganda film received "an extraordinarily favourable reception" from the German public, according to a report of Nov. 28, 1944.

For most people, however, another intelligence report of a speedy "derivation of all power from Germany" will be "welcome".

THE LITERARY CORNER

Ibrahim Nasrallah lives in the city and hates it

IBRAHIM NASRALLAH, the Jordanian poet, was best introduced by Dr. Abdul Rahman Yaghi, the Modern Literature professor at the University of Jordan, who maintained in Al-Rai daily on Nov. 21, 1980 that "it is a good thing that the lad be a poet and the poet be a lad." Ibrahim Nasrallah, then, is a young poet who could quickly and yet justifiably gain a wide reputation both in Jordan and the Arab World. The young poet is among a few Jordanian poets whose works embraced an almost unanimous tradition in the Jordanian and Arab dailies and magazines.

The poet was born in Amman in 1954 and studied at UNRWA schools. He acquired a two-year teaching diploma from the Amman Training Centre, followed by two years of teaching in Saudi Arabia (an experience which inspired him to prepare for a novel entitled "The Prayers of Fever." Nasrallah now works as a journalist at Sawt Al-Sha'b daily in Jordan.

Ibrahim Nasrallah, who started his literary life by writing colloquial poetry, wrote the following poetical collections: "My Body Was the Sieve" (1978), "Horses on the Threshold of the City" (1980), "Rain inside" (1982), "Songs of the Morning" (1984), "The Last Dialogue — Few Moments Before the Death of the Bird" (1984), in addition to a collection of verses for children.

Although the issue of time occupies a spacious room in Nasrallah's poetry — a rich and attractive topic to write about, the poet's stand towards the city occupies yet a more spacious room, which is more tempting to handle in today's corner.

The young poet simply hates the city, a matter which he states very plainly in his poetry:

I love not the city:
But, I'd share the secret with you.
I know it.
Now I descend towards the sand of the wound:
I search for you
To beseege it.

In another instance, he states that cities are assassins:
When the cities of the world passed by
Assassins... assassins
He even maintains that the city is not his:
Oh! Ye unchaste rose!
Not once were you ours,
You were for silence
For death
For assassins.

The poet rhetorically questions his people's share in the city:
— What is there for us from the sums of the city?
— Darkness of our sadness in the factories!
— What is there for us from the space of the city?
— Bitterness and the streets agony!
— What is there for us from the edifices of the city?
— A cemetery, exodus, and a port!
— Let us start!
— Let us start!

He condemns the city which is built on his remnants, and yet he

arrives at some kind of compromise with it:
The purple man enters his ribs and rests on the breast of the
sea mistress for a while
Soaked with rain wishes,
He wakes up to find his feet plunged
into the sand down to its smile

The purple man carries his fragments.
He regains the city
Crawls on her breast
Bleeding, he stands on his ashes
The city is wide open
It does not close her doors.

Sir! Do you live here?
Perhaps.
Do you love the place?
A dream... and blood.

On the other hand, the city-hater's apprehensions are manifested in other forms and conceptions (paradoxical at times). The poet achieves the oneness of the cities; he sometimes unites them positively (as parts of the one body):

A root extends in Beirut
Another in Gaza
And Amman grows in the blood.

Fatima bears her patience on her forehead
Bathes in the waters of the Euphrates
Takes refuge in the waist of the Nile
Roams the desert sand, comparing
Between her stature and the palm trees
Writing her sorrows in the streets of Amman
The sorrows echo in Galilee
And when she searches for her day
And when she searches for her bread
And when she searches for her sun
The place narrows
The place narrows
"A lark in the heart for Gaza,
And two for Amman."
At other times, cities unite to do evil.
This city, Oh!
They say 'tis one.

And this city, Oh!

The Lad poet

They say 'tis just.

And this city, Oh!
They say 'tis wide.

The cities are terribly daemonic:
Cities are the same as famine
Or as the eyes of the informer.
It is worth noting, however, that the poet identifies himself with Amman, the good and poor people, not Amman; the surfeited people:

Amman has the colour of my wounds
The colour of my yearning
The colour of that who still wears me
Soft and water.

Nasrallah's frequent reference to the daemonic city (almost in every poem) paradoxically reminds me of (the Iraqi poet) Badr Shaker Al-Sayyab's rain which embodies good. This in fact raises an important question: Why is Nasrallah haunted with such hatred for the city? Does he hate it because he belongs to a poor neighbourhood? Or does he unconsciously love it, but tries to assuage it to cover up for a hidden sense of guilt emanating from fear of having unconsciously substituted it for his usurped city in Palestine? And if this is really the case, why doesn't he refer to the villages and towns of Palestine? Or doesn't he realise the daemonic nature of the city anywhere, any time? And if cities in the usurped land are that sacred (possibly due to the resistance spirit prevailing in them), why would Gaza enjoy the lion's share alone?

Gaza's sea is calm
Water and sails
The bluesness and the wide morning
And a window for the seagulls.

I agree with the poet that the twentieth century city can be cruel and detestable at times, but not to the exaggerated extent the poet portrayed. The overwhelming presence of the city in Nasrallah's poetry does help glorify it rather than condemn it, which ironically defeats the poet's purpose. I venture to say that the city really haunted the poet, a matter which he should avoid and try to look for the real enemies instead.

Nasrallah's poetry is simple and brilliant in its own right. He is to be commended for his excellent choice of iambic, words, music and rhyme — a hard currency these days.

"It is a good thing that the lad be a poet, and the poet be a lad," but it is even better that the poet sustains maturity in poetry, and a burning spirit in youth and old age alike.

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's Corner

Hijack may be rewarded

WITH TIME everything grows including hijacking. Things have changed from the time airplanes were hijacked to go to Cuba to the last hijacking of Kuwait Airways. The Kuwaiti plane grounded for six days at Tehran Airport is the beginning of a new era in air piracy. Not only because it was the longest hijacking ever seen nor because it was the "bloodiest" but because of the circumstances of the event. We followed hour after hour, day after day, the calvary of passengers, the pressure made on Kuwait to release certain criminals (who undoubtedly are pals of the four air pirates following the same ideology and style), the cold blooded murders, the corpses thrown overboard... to arrive finally at the conclusion, so simple in fact: The Iranians assaulted, nothing happened, no wounds, and the four "ideologists" went out, their hands on their heads. Everything is over in a few seconds and one wonders why this had not been tried before.

We have of course heard the encouragements and support messages of some terrorist organisations praising the "heroic" deeds of the pirates. This is why we should expect a recurrence of this event, more bloody maybe, to break the record already reached. We live in a beautiful world which a group of madmen has decided to turn into hell. What is terrible is that they are succeeding. It would be interesting however to watch the four pirates now. Their pals, who had hijacked the Air France plane to Tehran have been seen driving Mercedes cars... how will those pirates be rewarded, while the families of innocent people are grieving for their dead? We might know this soon.

Aramaic still spoken in Syrian village

By G.G. Labelle
Associated Press

MAALULA, Syria — The rhythm is familiar but the words are not. It is the lord's prayer being recited in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago.

Some reference books call it a "dead language," but in this village clinging to a weathered limestone mountain, and in the surrounding area, Aramaic is still spoken on the streets.

Father Michel Zaroura, head of the Mar Sarkis monastery here, said that while in most places the language disappeared about 270 A.D., it somehow hung on in Maalula.

"The village was an important religious centre at the time," the priest explained.

In addition to religion, there are other apparent reasons why the language, less guttural than the Arabic also spoken here, would manage to survive in Maalula.

Though only about 50 kilometers north of Damascus, the village seems a world apart. Off a main highway rising through dusty, brown hills a valley green with fields and trees suddenly appears.

The valley leads to Maalula, whose houses rise up the limestone rockface so precipitously they seem almost piled atop one another. Some of the houses are stucco painted a light blue which, set among white-stucco houses and others of rough stone, give the village almost a mosaic appearance.

The oldest houses, Father Zaroura said, are built into caves believed inhabited by man as early as the 10th Century B.C.

In addition to Father Zaroura's monastery, Maalula is home to the convent of St. Tekla, and the priest related a legend about the saint and how the village got its name.

Father Zaroura said that Tekla, a student of St. Paul, was being persecuted by her father for having converted to Christianity from Paganism. She tried to flee but ran into the limestone mountain Maalula is built against. Suddenly an opening appeared in the mountain and she made her escape.

Maalula means "entrance" in Aramaic.

The convent of St. Tekla is partly built into a cave, and Father Zaroura said the building dated to the first century. Water drips from the cave into a small trough, which has a cup attached to it by a small chain.

The water is said to have healthful properties. Father Zaroura said. The priest said his own monastery, named for Mar Sarkis, or St. Sergius in English, was built in the fourth century. Mar Sarkis was a Syrian serving as a Roman soldier who was tortured and executed near the end of the third century when it was learned he had secretly converted to Christianity. Father Zaroura said.

He added that the monastery's site was believed to be that of a pagan temple earlier and that wood from one door in the monastery was tested and found to be 3,000 years old.

Most of the building's doors are only about four feet high, said to be so built both to give the monks humility and as a defence against invaders.

The monastery church, built in the shape of a Greek cross, has walls of rough stone and a dome that is white stucco inside. Dusty crystal chandeliers with electric bulbs illuminate gold painted icons and crosses inlaid with various woods and mother of pearl.

Father Zaroura walked from one icon to another, dismissing some as new, describing others as "very old, very valuable."

Later, as he explained the Mar Sarkis' history, he served tiny glasses of a dark red, very sweet wine made at the monastery.

The only Western language Father Zaroura speaks is French. But he showed off tapes he had made of a brief lecture in more than half a dozen languages — among them, English, Hungarian, and Russian.

He said he wrote out a script in Arabic, then with the help of native speakers, painstakingly memorized in each language his short history of Maalula and Aramaic.

The ancient language was spoken throughout southwest Asia from about 900 B.C. until the end of the 3rd Century A.D. The biblical books of Daniel and Ezra were originally written in it, and Father Zaroura's tapes feature an Aramaic recitation of the Lord's prayer.

Sartre filled 'boring' war months with creating worlds

WAR DIARIES: Notebooks from a Phoney War, November 1939-March 1940, by Jean Paul Sartre, translated to English by Quinon Hoare.

THE MONTHS Sartre spent stationed with a meteorological observation team in Alsace during the anxious tedium of the phoney war were the most frenzied bout of creativity in his life: besides 14 philosophical notebooks, crammed with the early drafts of Being and Nothingness (1943), there were a daily flood of letters to his mother, to Simone de Beauvoir and to his lover "Tania" and the first draft of his novel The Age of Reason. In all, a total of one million words. If genius has any defining attribute, it must be immense physical energy.

Some works of genius are achieved by a nearly fanatical narrowing of the faculties, a sharpening of the brain's focus in order to burn holes through problems which demand more expansive minds. Sartre's genius was the reverse: a protean talent for inclusion, for making the whole range of his experience the material for sustained reflection.

These notebooks, written expressly for posthumous publication, reflect Sartre's intense awareness that the coming of the war required a moment of truth, a summing up of his passage from youth

to maturity. Until the war, he wrote: "I believed myself sovereign; I had to encounter the negation of my own freedom — through being mobilised — in order to become aware of the weight of the world and my links with all those other fellows and their links with me."

If war turned an anti-bourgeois Montparnasse individualist into a social being, one wonders what his fellow social beings in the army camp made of this nervous little man with thick glasses who wrote late into the night after they were all asleep, and who displayed such strange relentlessness in barracks-room argument.

Rarely has the *mise en scene* of philosophical invention been more dramatically evoked. We see a philosophy taking shape at a quiet table in the midst of the lunchtime bustle of the Taverne de l'Ecrivain, amidst the sound of caroming billiard balls in a requisitioned cinema full of conscripts; and most of all, late at night, when Sartre's most abstruse ruminations were apt to be brought to a halt by a room-mate snoring in his sleep.

On all this distraction, Sartre



BOOK REVIEW

turned a novelist's eye. Some of the keenest pleasures in these diaries are the incidental observations: the way a fellow soldier compulsively licks his lips; the way a certain sumptuous blonde at the next table reads a red meat sandwich between her teeth; and the way soldiers returning from leave kiss their girlfriends at the station.

The phoney war — like all murky moments on the eve of cataclysm — provided Sartre with copious evidence of the human capacity for cheerful self-delusion. As Finland falls before

the Soviet army, Sartre hears an English officer remark brightly to his Alsatian landlady: "The war is over, my dear Madam. But the public mustn't know."

The strange five-month lull before the storm also revealed the abstract and unreal character of the national hatreds which were soon to have France and Germany at each other's throats. The same soldiers who in May 1940 were killing each other, in February 1940 were peacefully spying on each other with fieldglasses and hoisting cheeky placards of greeting.

For Sartre these were only the outward absurdities of war. The inward effects of the war were what occupied him: the sense that the pause before the deluge offered him a unique moment for an *examen de conscience*. The richest parts of the diary are those in which Sartre the autobiographical moralist models himself after the great French masters of the art: Pascal, Montaigne and Gide. From adolescence, he records, he was obsessed with the idea of living a great life. The diary unsparingly lays out the shocks his ambition suffered in his twenties:

"What I did dimly sense was that one can't take a point of view

on one's life while one's living it: it comes on you from behind, and you find yourself up to your neck. And yet if you look around, you realise you're responsible for what you have lived and that it's beyond repair. I felt I was deeply committed to a path which was growing narrower and narrower. I felt that at every step I was losing one of my possibilities as a person loses his hair... In short I took the transition to manhood as badly as possible.

His success at the Ecole Normale and the publication of *Le Nausee* gave him everything he wanted in his early thirties, and yet every time he was disappointed: because he could not be sure that each success would actually lead, in the end, to a "great life" — "I'd wished every event to befall me as in a biography: in other words, as when the story's end is already known."

Typical of Sartre's thoroughness and ingenuity in self-examination is a long passage on his peculiar indifference to material things: "I lose pens and pipes: I don't grow attached to them. They're exiles in my hands and live in an atmosphere hardly any more intimate than the cold light which bathed them... in the

shop window."

This asceticism he attributes to the fact that his parents were public servants, who derived their income from the state rather than from commerce.

Ultimately, however, this historical examination of his character cedes to the philosophical. His asceticism, he concludes, is "metaphysical pride: I'm sufficient unto myself, in the nihilating solitude of the for-itself." From the humble detail of his attitude to pens and pipes, through history to metaphysics, this example shows the Sartrean autobiographical method at work and, incidentally, lays out the origins of that asceticism towards property which informs his later Marxism.

Like all great solitaires, all coldly self-sufficient writers who pour themselves out in books, Sartre passionately needed both the immediate comradeship of Simone de Beauvoir, but also a less proximate audience: his readers. He poured himself out for us because he needed us to ground his life in authenticity, and in turning the bright beam of his intelligence upon his own solitary life, he lights up the disavowed secrets of our own — Le Monde.

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Mayotte heads ousted seeds in NSW open

SYDNEY (R) — Number two seed Tim Mayotte of the United States led a dismal procession of five of the top eight seeds out of the New South Wales (NSW) men's open tennis championship here Wednesday.

Mayotte, 24, a grasscourt specialist and Wimbledon semifinalist in 1982, lost 4-6, 7-6, 7-5 to tall Californian Hank Pfister, who recently considered retiring after a run of first round losses.

Pfister, ranked 116th in the world against Mayotte's 19th, refused to allow his opponent, who served for the match at 5-4 in the second set, to dictate terms in their second round duel.

"I was able to keep scrapping, to give him garbage balls, and that kept me in the match," Pfister said. "I made him work."

Pfister, 31, won no matches between April and August this year and considered retirement as his ranking dropped to 165th.

"I wasn't going to play in qualifying events. I'm too stubborn for that," he admitted Wednesday.

Fourth seed John Lloyd of Bri-

tain, number five Mike Bauer of the United States, Czechoslovak seventh seed Miloslav Mecir and eighth-seeded Frenchman Guy Forget were also out of luck on the tournament's first day to be unaffected by rain.

Lloyd was on the wrong end of the most one-sided of the seeds' results, beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Texan baseliner Sammy Giammalva. But more humiliating still were the defeats of Bauer and Forget, who lost to Americans who had played through the qualifying tournament.

Bauer, last year's losing finalist, was beaten 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 by 21-year-old Ken Flach, while Forget, who was troubled by a nosebleed at the end of the match, went out 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to Tom Cain.

Mecir fell victim 6-3, 7-5 to up-and-coming Australian Peter Doohan, 23.

Youth organisation to host Japanese martial arts team

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Youth Welfare Organisation (JYWO) has agreed to host the Japanese Aikido team to give various performances on Dec. 23 at Al Hussein Youth City and on Dec. 26 at Yarmouk University. The JYWO has also provided the World Club in Kuwait with the directory of youth centres in Jordan. This came upon request from the club and its willingness to establish cooperation between the two countries.

Jordan to take part in Arab tennis

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan Tennis Federation Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz Al Za'bi said that the federation will take part in the Arab Tennis Championship for youths. The championship will be organised by the Arab Tennis Federation and will start on Feb. 5 in Iraq.



PRINCE RECEIVES TAE KWAN DO TEAM: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at his office Wednesday morning the national Jordanian Tae Kwan Do team

and congratulated them on their achievements in the recent Asian Tae Kwan Do tournament held in the Philippines in which the Jordanian team scored several victories.

Florentina manager says he quit rather than share job

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Giancarlo de Sisti said Wednesday he had quit as manager of Italian first division soccer club Fiorentina rather than share the job.

De Sisti was speaking after the announcement that Ferruccio Valcareggi, 65, would take over as manager until the end of the season. His first game will be Fiorentina's home league match against Juventus on Sunday.

De Sisti, criticised for Fiorentina's indifferent league form and a humiliating defeat by Anderlecht of Belgium in the UEFA Cup, said the last straw was when Dynamo Kiev of the Soviet Union beat the Italians 5-0 in a friendly last Sunday.

He said he decided to step down Tuesday night after Fiorentina president Ranieri Pontello and his father, Count Flavio Pontello who owns a majority stake in the club, had proposed hiring Valcareggi as co-manager.

"I have nothing against Valcareggi personally but I could not accept a proposal of that kind. I believe I should be free to make my own mistakes if necessary," de Sisti told a news conference in Florence.

Italian newspapers have speculated that Argentine Cesar Luis Menotti may become the club manager next season.

Hagler to be reinstated by WBC

MEXICO CITY (R) — Former World Boxing Council (WBC) middleweight champion Marvin Hagler of the United States will be reinstated on Thursday in New York. WBC officials said Tuesday.

Hagler was stripped of his title for refusing to obey a WBC rule that fights should last only 12 rounds. Since then he has said he will abide by the rule and has asked the WBC to reinstate him.

The officials said all 23 bodies affiliated to the WBC had been asked to vote on the matter and although some votes were still to come the majority were in favour of reinstatement.

The official decision will be announced at a news conference at which the WBC will also reveal its position on a proposed fight between Hagler, middleweight champion of the rival World Boxing Association, and his compatriot WBC super-welterweight champion Thomas Hearns.

Coetzee threatens court action

JOHANNESBURG (R) — De-throned heavyweight boxing champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa said Wednesday he would begin court proceedings if necessary to have his defeat by American Greg Page declared invalid.

Coetzee was knocked out by Page in the eighth round of his World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight title defence in Sun City earlier this month. But a television recording of the fight has shown the South African was knocked out 48 seconds after the bell should have sounded to end the three-minute round.

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French boxer shrugs off disqualification protests

PARIS (R) — French boxer Louis Acaries, controversial conqueror of former world champion Davey Moore here Tuesday, Wednesday dismissed the American's protests over his disqualification for landing a punch after the bell.

"He can say what he likes but it wasn't me who struck after the round," Acaries said of the right which dropped him to the canvas after the bell had ended the ninth round of their World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-middleweight title eliminator.

Moore accused Acaries of cheating and play-acting. He said he had no time to hold back the blow which put the former European super-welterweight and middleweight champion in line for a shot at Jamaican Mike McCallum's WBA title.

"You can't know how much I regret this outcome. I was stunned by Davey Moore's punch and that's why I fell. But I wasn't knocked out. I recovered very fast. I wanted to resume the fight," Acaries said.

"I'm convinced I had the means to beat Davey Moore inside the distance. If Moore hit me after the bell, it was because he was unnerved by my resistance."

Acaries said Moore was "very stretched by the end of the ninth round and sought safety in this irregularity," but added: "That doesn't stop me feeling frustrated."

He said it made no difference that he was behind on points for at least one judge. "The fight was going to be decided in the last three rounds, and victory was mine for the taking. I proved to Davey Moore that I had as much class as him. I proved to myself I'm worthy to contest a world championship," he said.

Michel Acaries, the Frenchman's promoter-brother, said McCallum had agreed before Monday night's fight in the Bercy Sports Palace to give Acaries a title-shot in Paris if he won.

"The bout could be staged at Bercy in February or March next year. But if the agreement gets drawn out and takes us into May or June, we could envisage Monaco. In that case I would like Louis to go to the U.S. for one or two fights. In the first instance, he would go straight from Moore to McCallum," he said.

Louis Acaries said: "McCallum is a better boxer than Moore, but I don't think he has the same resistance. That's why, if I can fight like I did against Davey Moore, I think I have a good chance of being world champion."

BRITISH EMBASSY Important Notice Christmas Holidays

The visa section of the British Embassy will be closed from 21 December until 26 December INCLUSIVE. Additionally, the visa section will be closed on 1st January 1985. Travellers wishing to visit the United Kingdom over the Christmas and New Year holidays are therefore strongly advised to make an early application for their visas, and in any event, no later than 18 December.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

The British Council have pleasure in offering a TEACHER TRAINING COURSE

for native English speakers, leading to the Royal Society of Arts Preparatory Certificate in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language.

The course will run from 20th April to 19th June 1985. Interviews and Registration will take place at the British Council on Sunday 16th December from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and Monday 17th December from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

For further information please contact the British Council, Rainbow Street, Tel: 36147/8

SECRETARY WANTED

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THE Daily Crossword by Olive Dunn

ACROSS

- Obstruct
- Scary
- Fragment
- Lobster claw
- Pilester
- File
- Ascended
- Sacred image
- Brink
- In complete disorder
- Molusk
- Shorten
- Glossy materials
- Buffer
- Autocrat
- Fiber plant
- Miscellany
- Musical instrument
- Contract
- In a state of confusion
- Heap
- Shout jacket
- Conduct
- avis
- Loop
- Thirsty
- A sweet wine
- Peak
- USSR mountain range
- In complete disorder
- Toy on a string
- Fortify
- Another name
- entendu
- Particular
- Excited
- Lapses
- Garden aid
- System

DOWN

- Stocking shade
- Vessel
- Hardy lass
- City liquid
- Respected
- Indian sage
- Incurion
- Remarkable to a Scot
- Put away
- Mother of Samuel
- Little by little
- Mentally confused
- King Lear's youngest
- Abounds
- Eng. derby site
- Aprils
- Hull's kin
- Diamonded
- In a state of confusion
- Fr. clergyman
- Origins
- Important events
- Black to a poet
- Singe
- Whirlpool
- Soup vegetable
- Harmony
- Star in Aquila
- Equivalent
- Possibly
- Bitter powder
- Artery
- Sovereign
- Pry through a knothole
- Equivalent
- Episcarp
- Um
- Fr. river

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. ALBINO, 2. RABBIT, 3. TAILOR, 4. WOLF, 5. CLOTHES, 6. TAILOR, 7. TAILOR, 8. TAILOR, 9. TAILOR, 10. TAILOR, 11. TAILOR, 12. TAILOR, 13. TAILOR, 14. TAILOR, 15. TAILOR, 16. TAILOR, 17. TAILOR, 18. TAILOR, 19. TAILOR, 20. TAILOR, 21. TAILOR, 22. TAILOR, 23. TAILOR, 24. TAILOR, 25. TAILOR, 26. TAILOR, 27. TAILOR, 28. TAILOR, 29. TAILOR, 30. TAILOR, 31. TAILOR, 32. TAILOR, 33. TAILOR, 34. TAILOR, 35. TAILOR, 36. TAILOR, 37. TAILOR, 38. TAILOR, 39. TAILOR, 40. TAILOR, 41. TAILOR, 42. TAILOR, 43. TAILOR, 44. TAILOR, 45. TAILOR, 46. TAILOR, 47. TAILOR, 48. TAILOR, 49. TAILOR, 50. TAILOR, 51. TAILOR, 52. TAILOR, 53. TAILOR, 54. TAILOR, 55. TAILOR, 56. TAILOR, 57. TAILOR, 58. TAILOR, 59. TAILOR, 60. TAILOR, 61. TAILOR, 62. TAILOR, 63. TAILOR, 64. TAILOR, 65. TAILOR, 66. TAILOR, 67. TAILOR, 68. TAILOR, 69. TAILOR, 70. TAILOR, 71. TAILOR, 72. TAILOR, 73. TAILOR, 74. TAILOR, 75. TAILOR, 76. TAILOR, 77. TAILOR, 78. TAILOR, 79. TAILOR, 80. TAILOR, 81. TAILOR, 82. TAILOR, 83. TAILOR, 84. TAILOR, 85. TAILOR, 86. TAILOR, 87. TAILOR, 88. TAILOR, 89. TAILOR, 90. TAILOR, 91. TAILOR, 92. TAILOR, 93. TAILOR, 94. TAILOR, 95. TAILOR, 96. TAILOR, 97. TAILOR, 98. TAILOR, 99. TAILOR, 100. TAILOR.

<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 WAR GAMES Colour Tel: 677420 Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117 WHO OF US IS THE THIEF (Colour) (Arabic) Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 25155 AGAINST ALL ODDS (Colour) 3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema ZAHARAN Tel: 23171 THE CRITERION (Colour) Performances: 7-2 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA JAWS-3 (Colour) Abdali, behind ALIA offices</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117 THE LEOPARD (Colour) The Year 2019 after the fall of New York Performances: 12-3-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198 THE VIRGIN COMMANDOS (Colour) Performances: 12-3-5:30-8</p>
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Sudan abolishes interest rates in all local banks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's central bank has ordered all Sudanese banks to stop charging interest in a fresh move to cement Sharia (Islamic) law introduced 15 months ago.

A circular issued on Monday directed local banks to settle commitments and debts due by Feb. 14 last year, the date the civil transactions act prohibiting any form of usury was promulgated.

Foreign banks operating in Sudan will be exempted from the new measure until a new formula is reached, it added.

The circular advised the banks that if settlements with clients could not be made in time with Islamic law, the cases should be referred to a special court set up by the chief justice.

The central bank also ruled that banks may accept interest-free deposits — to be known as investment deposits — which it said will be employed in commercial and other investments.

In October, Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri introduced Zakat, a flat rate tax under which a certain amount of a person's profits goes to Islamic institutions, including the government.

The move was seen as the first step in Islamising the banking sector.

Bahraini iron pellet plant faces marketing problems

BAHRAIN (R) — The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, inaugurated a \$300 million iron pellet plant here Wednesday amid concern that there may be marketing problems for its product.

The plant was built by Japan's Kobe Steel Limited for the Arab Iron and Steel Company, a pan-Arab joint venture of private and public organisations.

At full capacity, it can transform iron ore into four million tonnes per year of iron oxide pellets, used in steel plants.

A large Wednesday loaded the company's first shipment of 20,000 tonnes and headed for Saudi Iron and Steel Company, just up the Gulf in Jubail.

But one company source said there was concern that the Gulf market for the pellets is limited now to about 800,000 tonnes a year, mostly in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The company had hoped to fill the huge requirements of Iraq and possibly also Iran, whose combined demands in peace time are about three million tonnes a year, the source said. The war between them has closed that market.

The company plans to produce only two million tonnes in its first year of production.

Apart from the Gulf, the company hopes to sell in Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Europe, and eventually in Egypt and Libya.

The company, which is buying iron ore from Brazil and India, is considering building a steel plant nearby, but if a decision to build was made construction would not begin before 1986, the source said.

One industry analyst said that in the present poor market, it is easier for a pellet plant to be profitable if it is tied to a mining operation or to a steel plant, where one operation guarantees a market for another.

A steel plant, which is energy-intensive, would have the advantage of a steady supply of cheap natural gas from Bahrain.

The pellet plant is receiving gas at about one-fifth the world price, an industry source said, but because the plant uses comparatively little energy, the cheaper gas price does not cut overall costs significantly.

'Fight fire with fire'

WASHINGTON (R) — A presidential task force has recommended tough measures to combat what it calls oppressive government subsidies and other devices used by America's trading partners to capture markets in developing countries.

The recommendations by the president's task force on international private enterprise are contained in a 172-page report to be submitted to President Reagan Thursday.

An accompanying statement made available to Reuters said the report urged the United States to "fight fire with fire" to recapture lost overseas markets.

Specifically, the task force calls on the Agency for International Development (AID) and the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the agency financing international trade, to combine their resources to fight the trade subsidies used by others.

The task force was appointed by Mr. Reagan in May, 1983, to determine how U.S. resources, particularly foreign aid, could help increase U.S. trade, investment and private enterprise in developing countries.

It is headed by Mr. Dwayne Andreas, chief executive of Archer Daniels Midland Co., a major grain processing company, and its members are mostly heads of major U.S. corporations.

In mixed credits programmes, AID funds are mixed with either commercial or government money

to help finance exports.

"The greatest threat to international private enterprise is the use of massive trade mixed credits subsidies and other devices by foreign competitors to capture major markets in developing countries," the statement said.

"The United States now faces an unfortunate situation where it is losing its share of foreign agricultural markets and paying farmers to abort production of food at a time when millions of people in the developing world are starving," it declared.

It also urged the creation of a high-level economic council, similar to the White House National Security Council, to coordinate domestic and international economic action and to oversee trade, agriculture and foreign aid policy.

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BNOC does not aim to maintain oil prices high, British minister says

LONDON (R) — Energy Minister Alick Buchanan-Smith Tuesday appeared to hold out the possibility of lower prices for British North Sea oil.

Answering questions before the parliamentary energy committee, he said the objectives of the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) included the security of British oil supplies and seeking to trade profitably. But they did not include keeping prices high.

"Certainly at this stage I see no reason to change the objectives of BNOC," the energy minister said.

His comments came at a time when BNOC is under heavy pressure from its customers to cut its prices and from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to maintain its rates.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said Tuesday that any new price cut by North Sea oil producers could lead

to an oil price war.

Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez said a price war would affect Britain the most because North Sea production costs were among the highest in the world.

BNOC said last week it must modify its pricing formula to take greater account of the increasing importance of the free spot market and thus not incur trading losses.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith said he did not know exactly when BNOC prices for the first quarter of 1985 would be set, but that a view on them would have to be taken before the end of the year. The decision would be taken by BNOC alone after consultation with the

government.

"The view of the department of energy on this depends on what happens in the market," he said.

BNOC said last week it was exploring a monthly instead of a quarterly price-fixing system as one way of making itself more sensitive to the increasingly important spot market. But Mr. Buchanan-Smith said talk of BNOC having decided to move towards monthly price setting was just speculation.

BNOC, which handles more than half Britain's oil output, is losing an estimated \$10 to \$15 million a month through having to buy on contract at higher prices than it can charge consumers.

A BNOC spokesman Tuesday denied reports that BNOC had been offering discounts to contract customers since August.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith said BNOC had a role to smooth short-term market fluctuations.

"In the short-term, sharp and perhaps wildly fluctuating changes in price can be extremely damaging," he said. "BNOC can exercise an influence to bridge a movement from one market situation to another."

Some market analysts had believed Mr. Buchanan-Smith might Tuesday have announced a modified pricing policy to bring BNOC's rates closer to spot market prices.

Brent crude is trading at under \$27.50 a barrel on the spot market, well below the BNOC fourth quarter contract price of \$28.65.

When asked by the committee about Norway's decision to move to a system of fixing prices on a more spot related basis, the energy minister said: "Anything done by Norway is one element in our assessment." But no decision had yet been made about BNOC's operations in the first quarter of 1985.

In a related event, Britain's sterling M3 money supply measure, a key gauge of monetary expansion in the economy, rose sharply by 2.34 per cent in the five weeks to mid-November.

But the Bank of England said the figure was almost certainly erratically high and seemed to reflect a build-up of deposits prior to the heavily oversubscribed stock market flotation of the communications firm British Telecom.

Sterling M3 — a broad-based aggregate including cash and current bank accounts — has now risen by an annualised 12.25 per cent since mid-February, well above a government target of six to 10 per cent expansion.

The figure was the largest monthly increase since the ending of "corset" controls on bank lending in July 1980.

OECD annual inflation rate stabilises at 5.1 %

PARIS (R) — Consumer price inflation in the leading Western economies stabilised at an average rate of 5.1 per cent a year in October, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Wednesday.

This was unchanged from the revised September rate, which had originally been announced as five per cent.

Food price rises were restrained by weak international commodity markets while energy prices, especially outside North America, rose faster due to the strong dollar, the OECD said. Oil is priced in dollars.

The figures, which are not seasonally adjusted, also showed that monthly inflation in the 24-nation bloc slowed slightly to 0.5 per cent in October from 0.6 per cent in September, but remained above the 0.3 per cent level in each of the previous three months.

Among the seven leading industrial nations, Italy continued to have the highest annual inflation rate of 9.4 per cent, followed by France with seven per cent, Britain five per cent, the United States 4.2 per cent, Canada 3.4 per cent, Japan 2.2 per cent and West Germany 2.1 per cent.

Chances fade for avoiding rejection of '85 EC budget

STRASBOURG (R) — The chances of avoiding rejection of the European Community's (EC's) 1985 budget Thursday are fading with no further contacts on the issue scheduled between the European Parliament and member state governments.

Parliament President Pierre Pflimlin turned down an invitation Tuesday from commission president Mr. Gaston Thorn for three-way talks with council of ministers president Mr. Jim O'Keefe, Ireland's junior foreign minister.

Parliamentary sources said Mr. Pflimlin saw no point in such talks as the council had cancelled a meeting of national government budget ministers in Strasbourg Wednesday, on the eve of the final budget vote.

Parliament's main political groups have backed a recommendation from the assembly's budget committee favouring rejection of the group's annual bud-

get for only the second time in its history.

The official reason for seeking rejection is that the \$19 billion draft budget submitted by member governments is not enough to cover a full year's expenditure, but Mr. O'Keefe said the manoeuvre also reflected the desire of a newly elected parliament to flex its political muscles.

The ability to reject the budget and force the EC on to an emergency finance system is one of the few real powers of the 434-member parliament.

Mr. O'Keefe has warned that rejecting the budget would cause financial suffering among the bloc's farmers, and also reduce cash for social.

Parliamentary strategists Tuesday night were trying to refute these claims to prevent any last minute nervousness developing among the assembly's big farm lobby before Thursday's vote.

Shell strikes oil in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — The Shell International group's Turkish subsidiary N.V. Turkiye Shell said Wednesday it had made an oil find in eastern Turkey in a rock formation which had never before yielded petroleum in Turkey.

A company spokesman said the Barbes Deep One well near Diyarbakir was producing 1,500 barrels per day (b/d) of light crude of 44 and 46 degrees API gravity and some gas, from a depth of 3,847 metres.

The deposit was located in a hazro sandstone formation, whereas all previous Turkish discoveries had been in limestone, he said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market drifted lower at the close due to lack of interest after a small rally attempt earlier in the session, dealers said. The FTSE 100 index at 1530 was down 5.8 at 1192.8.

Shares had opened lower in response to Tuesday's higher than expected U.K. money supply figures for November. BTR was down 6p at 544. GEC eased 4p at 224 and P and O eased 2p to 303. ICI dipped 2p at 670 after 676 and Glaxo returned to 1,095 having touched 1,115 after some U.S. support.

Government bonds showed losses ranging to 3/16 point while gold shares were lower and North Americans mixed.

Tate and Lyle reported annual figures at the top end of expectations and rose to 451 before returning to Tuesday's 446 close. Pilkington brothers dropped 12p at 293 despite higher than expected interim figures, depressed by its £104 million rights issue.

Oils were lower, reflecting uncertainty over crude oil prices despite the denied rumour Tuesday that BNOC had been offering discounts. B.P. was 2p easier at 486. Banks were quiet with losses ranging to 3p while insurances eased by as much as 8p. British Telecom eased 1/2p at 96 having met some light selling, dealers added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.1965/75	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3194/97	Canadian dollars
	3.0885/0900	West German marks
	3.4855/75	Dutch guilders
	2.5560/80	Swiss francs
	62.12/17	Belgian francs
	9.4625/75	French francs
	1902.5/3.5	Italian lire
	247.10/25	Japanese yen
	8.8125/8225	Swedish crowns
	8.9300/9400	Norwegian crowns
	11.0400/0550	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	326.20/326.70	U.S. dollars

China, USSR may agree on long-term trade plan

PEKING (R) — Soviet First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov, the highest-ranking Kremlin leader to come to China in 15 years, will arrive in Peking on Dec. 21, the Chinese foreign ministry said Wednesday.

The trip marks a gradual improvement in relations between the estranged Communist giants.

Asian and Western diplomats said Moscow and Peking hoped to conclude a trade agreement for the period 1986-90 during Mr. Arkhipov's visit.

The two sides have also identified around 30 factories where Soviet technicians would help to modernise plant installed during the period of Sino-Soviet friendship in the 1950s.

The diplomats said China and the Soviet Union might in addition agree to set up a joint technological and scientific commission during the trip.

Chinese Communist Party chief

Mr. Hu Yaobang said last month the two countries were considering establishing some joint committees to promote trade, economic and technical cooperation.

The neighbours have just signed an agreement in Moscow which aims to boost trade from \$1.05 billion this year to \$1.4 billion.

They completed a fifth round of talks on normalising relations in October and agreed they both wanted to expand economic, trade, scientific, technological, cultural and sporting links.

China imports steel, timber, fertilisers, machinery and vehicles from the Soviet Union while exporting food, silk, cotton and fabrics.

It is in the middle of a big industrial modernisation programme and says it needs peace along all its borders. It has been opening up to the outside world and seeking investment from the West.

THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUDAL
GIERT
FLOUBE
REVONG

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

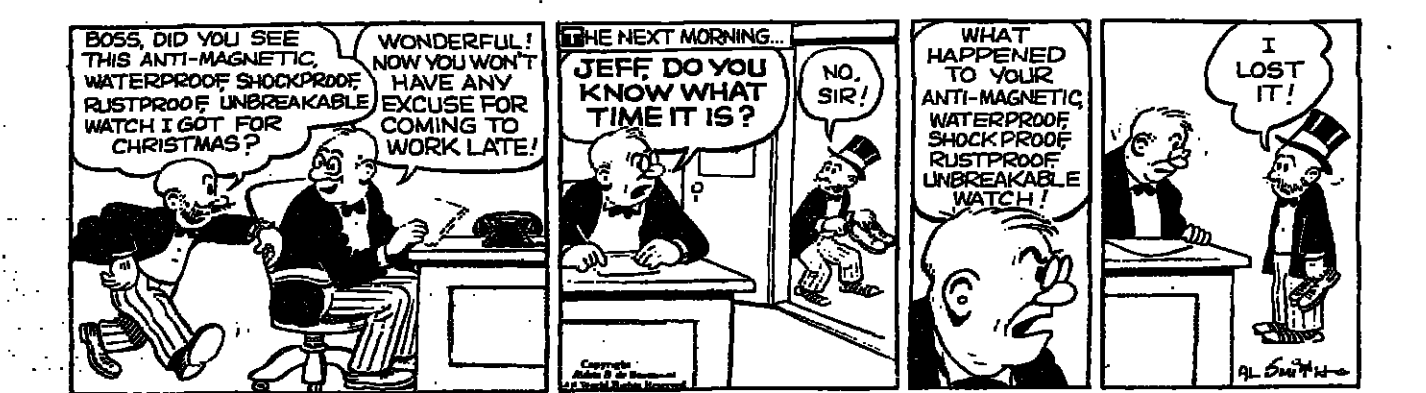
Answer: A C O O L FOR (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TEASE OFTEN MASCOT SPLEEN
Answer: What the bankrupt businessman couldn't pass — THE "ASSET" TEST

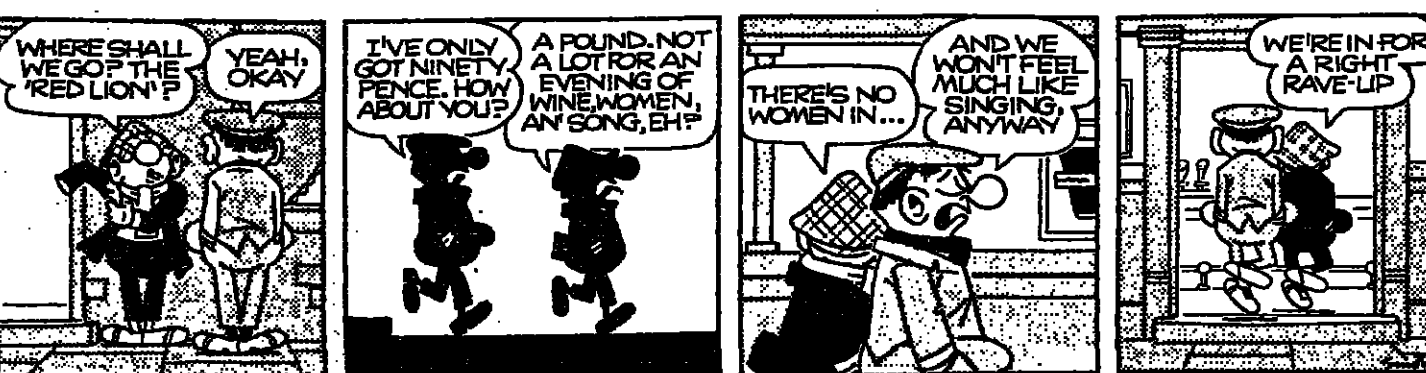
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have a strong urge to demand a change and if it must be, it is good and not to be dreaded as it is followed by some opportunities to improve present conditions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You begin by putting a new course of activity in motion but then realize it can be utilized to better another plan.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have some method in mind that will make you more efficient and your life richer, so get right at it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You plan to have an easy day at routines, but something may come up to change this, and you get a new slant on life.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If other expenses arise today, study them carefully before you commit yourself to them. Be wise.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your interests can be extended, but they may not work out just as you had planned, yet you get fine benefits.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A plan to gain your wishes appears to be going smoothly but suddenly you encounter obstacles, but this relieves you of worry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You plan to come to a better understanding with friends, but this can happen in a roundabout way. Show your loyalty.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A new attitude is required if you are to gain from that vital worldly affair, but be more modern.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel that a newcomer can help you to solve a problem, but another one is more apt to do so later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Being more cooperative with debtors and creditors can bring about finer results now. Your mate may be irritable today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be with the partners with whom you work very well and accomplish a good deal now. Be social tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get your environment changed around a bit and be happier in it. Don't be surprised if there are changes of personnel at work.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be capable of comprehending big projects and carry through with them very wisely and when one has petted out, will wisely turn to another and do very well with that. Be sure to give a fine academic education since your progeny is most intelligent and resourceful.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 14, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The plans you made that had considerable scope to them the past several days require that they be put into motion if you are to benefit by them. So get into the specific details.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be enthused about whatever work you have to do whether at home, office, for the government, etc. Be happy with your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) First find out about some recreation you want to get into so that you will not meet with some disappointment later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is important that you go along with ideas of kin and maintain the harmony at home which is so important to you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get into usual Friday studies, but expect some changes to arise later. The evening is fine for visiting.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) During spare moments consider your financial status and plan how to make it better. If you set up a wiser budget, you will have more.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Organize the specifics of any situation very well so that you can save money and time, plus energy. Meet with friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Early handle necessary business affairs so that your weekend will be free from worry and you can do what you like.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Contact discriminating and successful friends who can assist you in your most important interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your career work needs some retouching and revitalization, so get at this early. Listen to the directives of a higher-up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You get news from a distance which needs immediate handling, so get at it and clear it up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some new situation may arise in business that can prove beneficial to you if you act quickly and wisely.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Long conversations with associates will reveal what is expected of you and then you can make changes if necessary. Be cheerful at home.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very good at making a fine blueprint of any project before handling it. But your exacting progeny could get so caught up in detail only to lose out on the benefits. Be sure to send to college and learn to be more practical. Much travel is denoted here.

Gandhi pledges to crush divisive forces in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Wednesday his government would crush forces trying to weaken and break up the country.

Tight Security surrounded Mr. Gandhi as he started a day's tour of his Amethi parliamentary constituency in northern Uttar Pradesh state at the industrial town of Jagdishpur.

Underlining a theme which has dominated most of his campaign speeches, Mr. Gandhi said India could progress only with peace and political stability.

He accused opposition groups of supporting Sikh separatists in northern Punjab state and asked them to clarify their stand on demands for autonomy by the Sikhs' main political party, the Akali Dal.

Fresh violence was reported Wednesday in the run-up to the Dec. 24 polls to parliament's

Lower House, the Lok Sabha.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said one person was killed when police opened fire on a violent crowd at an election rally in the southern state of Tamil Nadu on Monday night after they failed to disperse rioters with batons and tear-gas.

The news agency said three students were stabbed in the remote north eastern state of Tripura when knife-wielding supporters of the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party clashed on Monday.

Four bodyguards of Chief Minister Rishang Keishing were killed in neighbouring Manipur state last week as he toured areas close to

the Burmese border which are a stronghold of guerrilla tribesmen demanding a separate state.

Mr. Gandhi has condemned election violence, which has included an attack on his estranged sister-in-law Maneka — his chief rival in Amethi — and the leader of the right-wing Hindi Bharatiya Janata Party, A.B. Vajpayee.

Mr. Gandhi told rallies in northern Haryana state Tuesday that he would clean up public life, set high standards in administration and halt political defections if re-elected.

"We will mobilise all our might in ensuring a clean public life and provide a corruption-free government," he said.

Congress, which currently holds 339 of the 544 Lok Sabha seats, is widely expected to win the election, helped by a wave of popular sympathy over Indira Gandhi's assassination.

Colombo to reply to Gandhi's accusations

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka decided Wednesday to reply to accusations by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi about the situation on the island following guerrilla violence, a cabinet spokesman said.

Information Minister Anandassila De Alwis said the cabinet discussed Mr. Gandhi's statement and directed the Foreign Ministry to prepare a reply.

Mr. Gandhi Tuesday accused Sri Lanka of attacking Indian fishermen and said its security forces were guilty of indiscriminate killing.

Mr. De Alwis told reporters the Sri Lankan reply also would point out "various errors in fact" in Mr. Gandhi's statement.

Mr. Gandhi, in his first statement since guerrillas stepped up attacks in the northern parts of Sri Lanka three weeks ago, said he was deeply concerned that the situation there had rapidly deteriorated.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali has linked the upsurge in guerrilla violence to India's general elections on Dec. 24 and to elections in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu the same day.

Mr. Athulthumudali told Reuters Tuesday the rebels were "fighting on the instructions of some people who think that by creating incidents in Sri Lanka and provoking an anti-Tamil backlash they could win in Tamil Nadu."

The guerrillas are fighting for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka for the island's 2.5 million Tamils who have close ethnic and cultural ties with the 50 million Tamils in the south Indian state just 30 kilometres across the Palk Strait.

Vietnam to try 120 alleged plotters

TOKYO (Agencies) — Vietnamese authorities have arrested about 120 people accused of plotting to topple the government and seize tons of arms and ammunition, the Japanese Kyodo News Service reported from Hanoi Wednesday.

Kyodo quoted diplomatic sources in Hanoi as saying Tuesday that those arrested were mostly military men who had served under the former South Vietnamese government.

The plot is said to be the biggest since the Communists moved into Saigon — now Ho Chi Minh City — in 1975 and unified North and South Vietnam, Kyodo added.

It said about 20 of those arrested would be put on trial in Ho Chi Minh City, possibly on Friday. Trials of the others would follow.

Kyodo quoted the sources as saying opponents of the Hanoi government slipped out of the country after 1975 but kept in contact with underground groups and returned later.

The sources said the seized arms included machine-guns, rifles and hand grenades, Kyodo reported.

Albania accused of human rights abuse

LONDON (R) — Albanians who practise their religion or criticise the government are being given long sentences in labour camps, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Suspects are routinely beaten in order to force confessions and are denied the right to legal counsel, the human rights organisation charged in a report entitled "Albania: Political Imprisonment and the Law."

"Trials have generally been concluded within a day and Amnesty International knows of no political trials in which the defendant was acquitted," it said.

Reagan asked to abide by arms agreements

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four United States senators have urged president Ronald Reagan to maintain U.S. adherence to existing arms control agreements with the Soviet Union while seeking to reopen negotiations on new accords.

They said in a letter released by Republican Senator John Chafee that restraint by both sides serves U.S. security interests by limiting the development of Soviet weapons.

A commitment by the United States and the Soviet Union to observe the treaties, some of which were never ratified by the Senate, "could provide a positive atmosphere" for negotiations, the letter said.

Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Min-

ister Andrei Gromyko are due to discuss prospects for ending the one-year suspension in negotiations at a meeting Jan. 7-8 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sen. Chafee was joined in the plea for restraint by Republican Senator John Heinz and Democratic Senators Dale Bumpers and Patrick J. Leahy. In June, the four — all liberal to moderate in their views — won Senate passage of an amendment endorsing the policy of mutual restraint.

Although Mr. Reagan had attacked all major U.S.-Soviet arms control agreements before his election, he promised as president not to undercut the provisions limiting offensive and defensive weapons, provided the Soviets also observed them.

Unseasonal rain threatens remaining Ethiopian crops

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Unseasonal rain is threatening to destroy the few crops which have survived Ethiopia's drought, the Ministry of Agriculture said Wednesday.

It urged farmers to build shelters to protect crops, which have been harvested and are lying in the fields, against downpours which started this week.

It told farmers in a statement "not to panic but to take precautions to save crops from being spoiled," such as digging trenches to drain excess water from the fields.

In a normal year Ethiopia grows about six million tonnes of food, about one million less than it needs to feed its 41 million people.

But three years of drought have devastated successive harvests and the one being picked now after the short rainy season is said

by the government to be the worst in 20 years. The main harvest is picked next spring.

The government says nine million people face starvation because of drought and has appealed for 100,000 tonnes of foreign food aid a month for the coming year.

Ethiopia on Tuesday blamed rich donor nations for the magnitude of its devastating drought and urged support for its controversial programme to relocate famine victims.

Marxist regime's five top leaders and head of the ruling party's Relief Coordinating Committee, said Ethiopia ranks among the lowest in terms of per capita foreign aid received since its 1974 revolution.

Overall, Africa reportedly receives \$22 worth of foreign aid per capita, while Ethiopia receives only \$6 per capita.

Washington threatens pullout from FAO

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan may seek to withdraw the United States from another United Nations organisation even as the deadline nears for the U.S. pullout from UNESCO, the U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

A confidential, internal working document containing proposed budget cuts was tentatively approved by Mr. Reagan and submitted to the cabinet last week included a one-line item that would "terminate FAO commitment" by 1985.

"Officials in the Reagan administration and Congress associated with the 144-member U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) expressed surprise that the suggestion came while the Rome-based agency is playing a leading role in fighting famine in Africa."

There has been little criticism of the FAO previously in U.S. government circles, but earlier this year the Heritage Foundation, a

conservative research organisation that has been active in the campaign against UNESCO, issued a study calling the FAO a "roadblock to development."

"The U.S. should consider making its entire voluntary contributions to FAO dependent upon FAO's willingness to undertake serious evaluations, establish specific project goals and milestones and create a role for the private sector in the agricultural development activities of the U.N.," the study said.

The Heritage Foundation also proposed the U.S. pullout from UNESCO shortly before the Reagan administration announced last December its intention to withdraw at the end of this year.

In its book *Mandate for Leadership II*, released earlier this month and proposing U.S. government policy for the next four years, it described FAO as one of the "U.N. technical agencies which have become overly politicised and thus do not adequately address technical issues."

Cuba agrees to return of 'undesirables' from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Cuba have reached basic agreement to return to Havana more than 1,000 "undesirable" refugees while allowing thousands of other Cubans to emigrate here with regular U.S. visas, an administration official said Tuesday.

He said an announcement would be made later in the week unless complications developed over the legal problems of Cubans in detention in this country.

The talks with the Cuban government are "basically wrapped up," said the official, who spoke only on condition he not be identified.

The Justice Department has expressed concern that legal problems raised in U.S. courts by Cubans who want to be set free might make it difficult to rep-

atriate them. "There may have to be some back-and-forth with the Cuban government over this," the official said.

In return for Cuba's taking back criminals and mental patients, the United States would resume the processing of visas for regular emigration from that country to the United States. More than 20,000 Cubans might come here as a result.

The Cubans to be sent home are now in American jails and mental institutions. They were among 125,000 who left in the Mariel boatlift of 1980.

The two countries have not had diplomatic relations since 1961, and officials stressed the tentative agreement on refugees would not resolve any other outstanding issue between Washington and Havana.

Bomb injures 18 in Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — A bomb exploded in a crowded section of the Santiago Stock Exchange Tuesday injuring eighteen people, three of them seriously, a government spokesman said.

Government Secretary General Francisco Cuadra told reporters the bomb, hidden in a suitcase, exploded at midday in a doorway leading to the dealing hall.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast.

Last week four people were injured in a bomb and gun attack in the capital's underground rail system and a policeman was killed in a machine gun attack on a police station.

Chile's President Augusto Pinochet imposed a state of siege at the beginning of November to prevent attacks by leftist guerrillas and to crack down on opposition to his 11-year-old military rule.

Mr. Cuadra said the bomb was made of half a kilogramme of explosive detonated by a timing device.

One witness said a woman in the crowd was thrown into another room by the blast. Most of the injured were hurt by shrapnel.

Security forces surrounded the building as bomb disposal experts searched for possible other devices inside.

Salvadoran rebels release prisoners, announce truce

LA JOYA, El Salvador (AP) — Salvadoran rebels freed 43 captured soldiers Tuesday and announced they will stop all armed offensive action over Christmas and New Year.

The soldiers, captured Dec. 1, were freed in a sparse, scattered collection of peasant huts known as La Joya in the parched, partly burned-over hills of San Vicente province, deep in rebel territory.

They appeared to be in good condition and said they had not been mistreated. They were turned over to a delegation of International Red Cross and Roman Catholic Church officials, including Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador.

The soldiers were captured in fighting at El Salto on the slopes of San Vicente Volcano, about 56 kilometres south east of San Salvador.

All but two known to have been captured were returned on Tuesday. Two cadet lieutenants continued to be held and an International Red Cross official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said they may be exchanged later for guerrillas held by the army.

The rebels said they will observe a unilateral "total truce" from midnight Dec. 23 until midnight Dec. 26 for Christmas, and from midnight Dec. 30 until midnight Jan. 2 for the New Year.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte is "analysing and considering" the guerrilla announcement, his

press secretary Oscar Reyes said. Secretaries in the offices of other government and military officials who participated in peace talks between the government and the rebels told the Associated Press the officials were out of their offices and it was not known when they would return.

A communique distributed by the rebel leadership in San Salvador and in Mexico City said guerrilla forces would take only defensive action during those periods.

It said the rebel leadership made the decision "to demonstrate its willingness to advance in the creation of conditions that might favour the solution of the conflict by way of dialogue and negotiation."

It also said rebel forces will "guarantee the movement" of government soldiers who want to visit relatives and friends in rebel-held territory.

The communique said the decision was made separately from, and will not affect, an agreement reached Nov. 30 in the second round of peace talks with government leaders. This accord allows free movement of traffic on this Central American nation's highways from Dec. 22 to Jan. 3.

The rebels said their decision was made "to allow government soldiers to enjoy some leave and reunite with their relatives and friends, and so that all the people can enjoy the atmosphere created by this decision of our fighting forces."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Gandhi killing named top news of 1984

CHICAGO (R) — The assassination of Indira Gandhi, the turmoil in India leading up to her murder and events afterwards was the top news story of 1984, according to the editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The U.S. presidential election took second place. Britannica editors in the U.S., Britain, France, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Japan, in the second year of the top 10 stories: Famine in rating, chose in order as the rest of the top 10 stories: Konstantin Chernenko's succession to power in the Soviet Union, the Vatican role in world affairs, the Los Angeles Olympics, worldwide terrorism, the U.S. space shuttle programme, and the poison gas tragedy in Bhopal, India.

Rare swans flock to Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Migrating rare Mute swans, last seen in large numbers in Cyprus over a century ago, are flocking to salt lakes on the southern coast of the Mediterranean island and police have warned hunters not to touch them. Well over 200 of the graceful swans have been sighted on Larnaca and Akrotiri salt lakes in the last three days. Ornithological Society Secretary Pavlos Neophytou told Reuters. "Something unusual must have happened in Europe, or while the birds were migrating to Africa. The swans rarely appear in Cyprus," he said. Severe weather may have driven the swans in and members of a team sent by the society found the birds so tame they could approach and touch them. Mr. Neophytou said.

Health care worker contacts AIDS

BOSTON (R) — A medical laboratory worker who is not a homosexual, a drug user, a haemophiliac or of Haitian origin has AIDS and doctors say he may be the first case in the United States to have picked up the disease from work. A spokeswoman for the New England Medical Centre where he is in intensive care quoted doctors as saying "some of the blood ... (in the man's work place) was probably from people with a high risk of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)." Homosexuals, drug users, haemophiliacs and people of Haitian origin have proved to be the most vulnerable to the AIDS virus, which destroys the body's ability to fight disease and has afflicted more than 6,000 people in the U.S.

Jackson postpones concert in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Michael Jackson has postponed charity concerts in Egypt which had been set for late this month due to "unforeseen circumstances," the newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported Wednesday. The semi-official newspaper said the international rock star telephoned the Egyptian Tourism Association on Tuesday to say he would make the tour at an undetermined time next summer. Jackson was to have arrived Dec. 28 for three charity concerts, including one using the Sphinx and the three Giza Pyramids as a backdrop.

Bucks Fizz involved in road accident

NEWCASTLE, England (R) — Two members of the British pop group Bucks Fizz were seriously injured in a road accident in which 15 people were hurt Wednesday, a hospital spokesman said. Singers Mike Nolan and Cheryl Baker were in hospital with severe laceration after being thrown through the windscreen of the coach in which they were travelling. One of the group's support musicians, keyboard player Tony Marshall, was described as critical with chest injuries.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

VACATION DO'S

By John H. Bates

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